

150 من المال



# THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,148

THURSDAY 21 NOVEMBER 1996

WEATHER: Mainly sunny (1945P) 40p



Comment  
**John Walsh's Diary**  
page 21

## Education+

24-page pull-out packed with higher education appointments



News  
**Mr. Punch: Off with his head!**  
page 3

# Tories switch millions to schools

Ian Burrell

The Government is considering providing an emergency package for schools by cutting up to £200m from money for training the young unemployed.

The national council in charge of youth training for more than 277,000 unemployed teenagers said last night that it had "serious concerns" that swingeing cuts were to be announced in next week's Budget.

Gillian Shepherd, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, is under immense pressure to produce more resources for schools following criticisms of poor test results, growing class numbers and lack of discipline in schools such as The Ridings, near Halifax.

By switching money within the budget of Mrs Shepherd's department, the Government can avoid inter-departmental quarrels and

## Emergency plan to cope with education crisis

thus make the cuts less conspicuous.

Chris Humphreys, chief executive of the national council which oversees the 81 Training and Enterprise Councils in England and Wales, said those in charge of youth training were extremely worried.

"There are very strong concerns that the schools system in England is not attracting the resources it needs and that young people in training are the ones who will be made to pay," he said.

John Howell, chief executive of the south London TEC (Solotec) and the former managing director of Singer, said the cuts would alarm the private sector, where the TECs enjoy the support of organisations such as ICI, British Steel and Woolwich Building Society.

"My understanding is that there are going to be cuts and they are going to be sizeable," he said. "What we are talking about here is the destruction of the work-based route back into employment - the route of training alongside employers. We have moved away from the old days of the YOP scheme which involved community work and we are giving people work-based qualifications relevant to the world of work."

Mr Howell said that 1,200 of the 6,000 trainees at Solotec could be lost.

There are fears that up to 27 per cent of the £180m youth training budget, which gives 50,000 training places, could be at risk.

The places under threat are those described as "non-guaranteed",

which are for trainees over 18. Unemployed 16- and 17-year-olds who are not in education are guaranteed a TEC place.

Representatives of the TECs have been in lengthy talks with Mrs Shepherd and James Paice, the education minister, over changes in the way the department's budget is allocated.

There have been criticisms of TECs over their drop-out rates and low qualification achievements.

The TECs, which are jointly funded by private business, argue that they are turning the corner and that their achievements are being recognised by employers and young people alike.

The number of people enrolling for the courses has been steadily increasing since 1993-94 and the

numbers achieving qualifications of NVQ level two or above has increased from 37 per cent to 62 per cent since 1991.

Godfrey Blakeley, spokesman for the TEC National Council, said: "Word has finally got around that youth training is a realistic way into a job. After five or six years of painful improvement this thing is coming good."

"It is this approach which is the reason for Germany's high level of skills in industry. Now, in typical British fashion, we are planning to diminish it just as it is bedding down."

In 1989, almost two-thirds of participants left their course early for no good reason, but the drop-out figure has been reduced to just over a third, which is similar to the

rate in other education programmes for 16-18-year-olds.

Mrs Shepherd has been an enthusiastic supporter of vocational qualifications and acknowledged recently that more money would be needed if they are to be successful. The education budget is under immense strain, with £700m needed to pay for the nursery voucher scheme for all four-year-olds from April. Millions more is being allocated for extra security in schools following the outcry after the death of the London headmaster Philip Lawrence.

The youth training budget for England alone now stands at £669m a year. There are 600,000 under-25s without a job and unemployment for 16-19-year-olds is 15 per cent, compared to 8 per cent for all ages.

The Department for Education and Employment would not discuss its plans in advance of the Budget. Worst school of all?, page 4



Gillian Shepherd: Under pressure to boost resources

## Rise in abortion after pill scare

Liz Hunt  
Health Editor

Health ministers are today accused of precipitating a "needless panic" over the contraceptive pill as new government figures suggest that last year's scare led to around 3,000 extra abortions.

A new analysis of the pill scare also highlights its international impact and long-term effects, and concludes that the Government's advice to women to change from certain brands of the pill was "unnecessarily alarmist and out of step with the assessment of medical information in other countries".

The analysis coincides with publication today of the abortion statistics for the first quarter of 1996, the period most likely to be affected by the events of October 1995. The figures are expected to show a significant increase in abortions of 6 to 7 per cent although some doctors are predicting it could be higher.

Dr Frank Furedi, head of development studies at Kent University and Anne Furedi, director of the Birth Control Trust (a charity promoting reproductive health and family planning), who carried out the analysis, say that a "pill panic" was waiting to happen in the UK. This followed newspaper and television reports in 1994 and 1995 of deaths linked to one particular brand of the so-called "third generation" combined oral contraceptive pills.

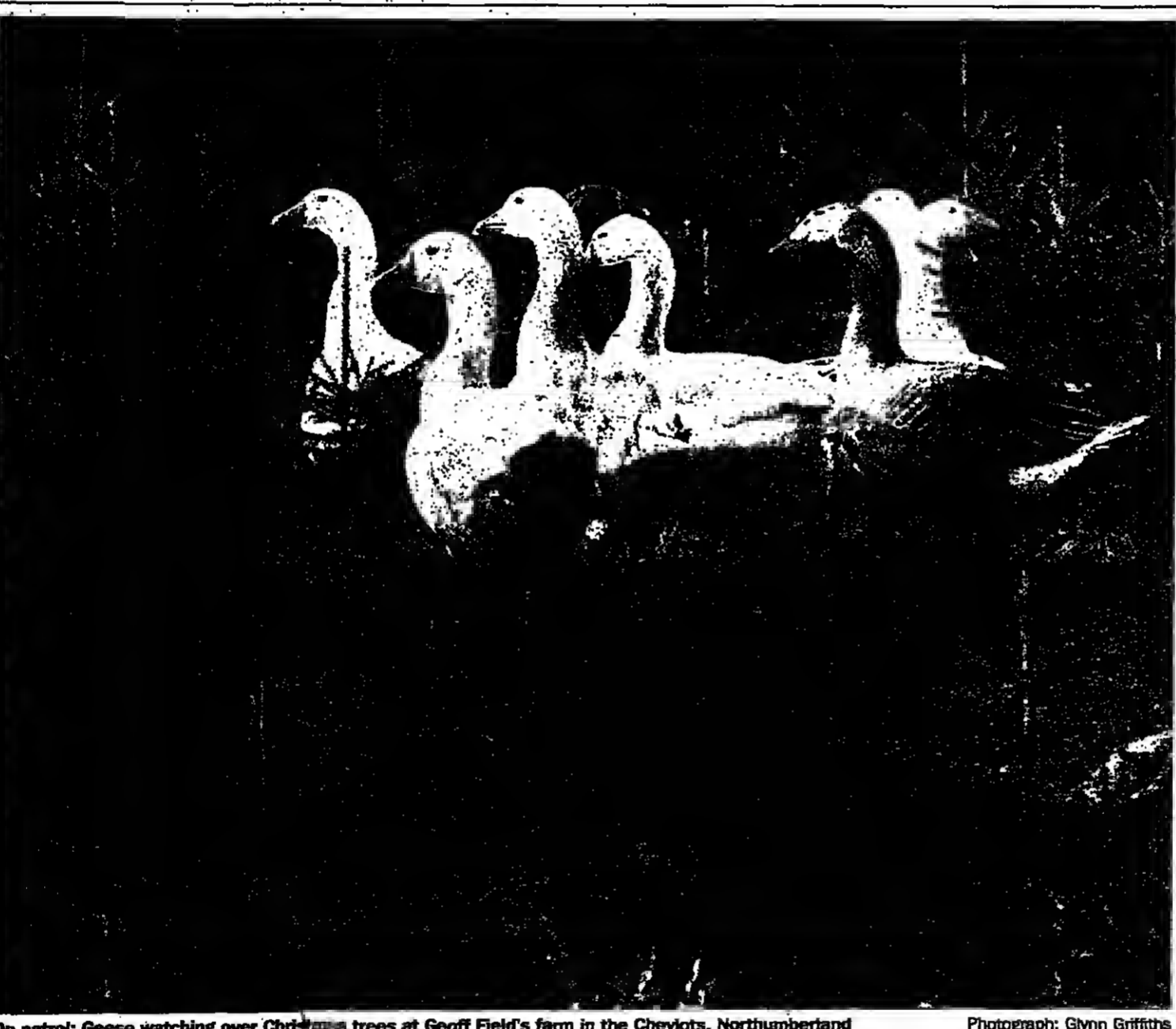
When preliminary data from three unpublished studies became available suggesting that women taking third-generation pills - those containing the synthetic hormones gestodene or desogestrel - were twice as likely to suffer blood clots as women on older, cheaper brands, the Government took action. Around 1.5 million women taking seven of the most popular brands were advised to change.

"This decision was driven largely by the threat of media criticism and possible subsequent litigation," the report says, rather than concern for public health or any significant risk to women. It claims that Department of Health officials "overreacted and panicked" in putting out the pill alert.

"Our research shows that this was a needless panic. Only in Britain and Germany, and later in Norway, did medical authorities conclude that women using third-generation combined pills should be advised to change to other brands," Ms Furedi said yesterday.

The Furedi report says that unlike other transitory health scares, the 1995 pill scare will reinforce the public's view that oral contraception poses risks that outweigh its considerable advantages. In addition, the scare has meant that doctors are reluctant to prescribe combined oral contraceptive pills, and "has reinforced a climate where legal action is more likely to be launched" by patients.

The *International Impact of a Pill Panic in the UK* is available from the Birth Control Trust, 16 Mortimer Street, London W1N 7RD.



On patrol: Geese watching over Christmas trees at Geoff Field's farm in the Cheviots, Northumberland

Photograph: Glynn Griffiths

## Goosestep guard keeps watch in Christmas forest

Glenda Cooper

The Romans employed them to save the city from marauding Gauls and now British Christmas tree growers are turning to cackling geese to combat tree-nesters.

The British Christmas Tree Growers Association warned yesterday that thieves are likely to take advantage of next week's full moon to execute lightning raids on plantations. Large-scale pilfering could push small growers into bankruptcy.

"A full moon makes it much easier for thieves. If it's dark it's obviously more difficult to pick up the trees," said Tony Richardson, the association's secretary. "There isn't a dark night until 10 December after which we'll be fairly safe."

"Losses are very important to the small grower," he added. "Those who only have two or three thousand trees and get 200

or so pinched can be pushed to the edge."

One of the best means of protection is geese. Geoffrey Field of East Sussex, who has been growing Christmas trees for more than 20 years, employs eight geese to watch his two acres of trees. "They are a great deterrent," said Mr Field. "A lot of people are terrified of geese, particularly if they have been chased by one as a child. They find them very nasty."

In Wales, Dyfed-Powys police have urged residents to be on the look out for thieves. Some 2,000 farmers in a network of "Farm Watch" schemes are being asked to report suspicious vehicles. "We need to take more care than usual," added Mr Richardson, a retired general. "The problem with Christmas trees is when they have been pinched it is jolly difficult to identify them as yours."

More news for geese, page 5

## So Crash is depraved? You may be disappointed

I can, if I so desire, go and see films featuring lots of sex, and films full of excitingly-shot car crashes. I cannot though, go and see a film which features both.

David Cronenberg's film *Crash*, based on J.G. Ballard's novel, has been ruled out-of-bounds for showing in West End cinemas. The decision made yesterday by Westminster City Council to impose an interim ban means that the film must now be considered by the British Board of Film Classification later this year.

If I was to prepared to risk my life in the Channel tunnel, I could of course nip over to Paris and watch it. If the hysterical fears about *Crash* were well-founded, one would have thought that Paris is by now a place full of smouldering wrecked cars being perverted Parisians copulating amongst the debris. This does not, however, appear to be the case.

Why? Perhaps because French citizens are less easily influenced than we are. Perhaps because they don't believe everything they see. Perhaps because they understand the difference between reality and fantasy. Perhaps because this film is meant to arouse the imagination rather than the libido.

In Britain however, *Crash* has aroused indignation and incomprehension. Despite pleas on its behalf from prominent writers and artists from Salman Rushdie to Mike Leigh, a dreadful literalism prevails. Without all this fuss, whipped up mostly by those who haven't seen the film,



by Suzanne Moore

session with sex and cars to its logical and yes, extreme, conclusion. Ballard who realised he could write science fiction set in the English suburbs is himself concerned about the level of violence in cinema pointing out that *Reservoir Dogs* is far more likely to incite copycat behaviour than anything in *Crash*.

The Westminster councillors have bizarrely insisted that one of the lines that should be cut from the film is "Car crashes are fertilising not destructive". There, you have just read it, but you are not presently permitted to see an actor saying it, presumably on the grounds that you might be persuaded this was true.

*Crash* will offend, it will bore and it will fail, in some eyes, because after all the hype, it is not a film designed to titillate. Cronenberg, speaking the other day, told us that one of the most common complaints about the film was that the car crashes were not realistic enough. So used are we apparently to seeing them on screen in slow-motion, that his crashes were not exciting enough.

That is a definition of depravity if ever there was one and in essence is what the film is actually attempting to bring to the surface. Yet to ban this film one must assume it depraves and corrupts, that it may cause imitative behaviour. This is ludicrous and just because the censors cannot distinguish between reality and fiction how dare they assume we can't either.

Councillors ban film, Page 9

QUICKLY	
Tunnel stays shut	The Channel Tunnel will be closed at least until Monday, amid fears that the northbound tunnel was badly damaged by the fire on Monday. Page 2
Yeltsin comeback	The Russian President Boris Yeltsin took a crucial step in his long-awaited comeback by appearing on television. He looked thinner and older than before his bypass. Page 14
CONTENTS	
The Broadsheet	Business & City ... 22-24
Comment	... 19-21
Foreign News	... 12-15
Gazette	... 18
Home News	... 2-11
Law Report	... 18
Leaders and Letters	... 19
Obituaries	... 18
Shares	... 25
Sport	... 28-32
Unit Trusts	... 26
Section Two	
Arts Reviews	... 19
Campus	... 12
Crossword	... 22
Dilemmas	... 10
Film	... 4-9
Graduate Plus	... 11
Listings	... 20, 21
Radio and TV	... 23, 24
Theatre	... 4, 5
Travel	... 11, 12
Weather	... 22

UP TO

# 140%

GUARANTEED

PLUS, FOR EARLY INVESTORS, A PREMIUM RATE OF 8% GROSS P.A. UNTIL 1.2.97.

**The Abbey National Guaranteed Growth Bond.**

Simply invest a minimum of £10,000 over a 3 or 5-year period and receive a guaranteed return of up to 140%. To ensure that you don't miss out, call into your nearest branch, or call Abbey National Direct free and quote reference A4528/13.

## 0800 100 801

**THE ABBEY NATIONAL**

Lines are open Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm and Saturday 9.00am to 1.00pm. To assist us in improving our service we may record or monitor calls. This offer may be withdrawn at any time. The rate of 8% gross p.a. will be earned from Date of Opening until 1.2.97. The term of the bond commences on 1.2.97. The minimum investment is £10,000. No additional deposits are allowed. No withdrawals are permitted before 1.2.97. The bond will mature on 1.2.2000 or 2002 (depending on term chosen at the outset). When the Bond matures a total return of 121% (3 year term, equivalent to 6.56% gross p.a.) or 140.25% (5 year term, equivalent to 7.00% gross p.a.) of the original investment plus the Premium Interest will be paid. You may be able to register with us to receive interest from overseas. It will be paid net of income tax at the prevailing rate. See leaflet for full conditions. Abbey National and the Umbrella logo are trademarks of Abbey National plc, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6DL.



150 من المجلد

# Nation of self-indulgent xenophobes?

Permissive but intolerant, liberal but cautious, the British are a contradictory lot according to a new survey

David Walker

Back in the grey and austere 1940s, tens of thousands of respectable British people tried smoking dope. Perhaps it was with the Army in a Cairo souk, perhaps it was in the back streets of Liverpool. We know that because three per cent of those who are now 65 report that they did to the latest *British Social Attitudes* survey.

We now live in a different Britain, and there is a lot more dope. Of those aged 18 to 24, more than one in three (37 per cent) acknowledge some experience with the weed. Only a third of 18-24-year-olds disagree with the proposition that cannabis be legalised – the rest either agree or won't plump.

But according to today's survey – the annual soapbox of the nation's beliefs – we are not a nation of drug-heads. More than four-fifths don't want heroin legalised, and it is only in places like London that you get significant numbers agreeing with the idea that possession of small amounts of heroin should not be prosecuted. But the fact

is that youth is a lot more liberal-minded and, as far as cannabis goes, they do it as well as approve of it.

Yet liberalism is evident in our views of foreigners. Significant evidence of xenophobia is uncovered, with nearly two-thirds of English people saying the number of immigrants should be cut and a quarter saying immigrants increase crime rates. During the past couple of years there has been a marked shift of opinion against the European Union.

Not surprisingly, young people's liberalism extends to sex. Ask younger people about sex on television or homosexuality and you get a broadly tolerant, permissive reply. If you extend questions to the family, there are signs of young people preferring friends to family for advice or loans.

That's the youth of today. Project that picture 40 years into the future and what do you get? Oldies smoking while watching sexy videos with their gay friends? It sounds like the plot

of a second-rate sitcom, but it is a fair reflection of what is to come. Between the lines of the survey is a pretty convincing picture of a future Britain that is more liberal, tolerant and, yes, there's a peculiar whiff in the air in the old folks' home.

Britain is ageing. That social fact has become a kind of mantra for welfare state pessimists and a category of doomsters worrying about how we'll pay for pensions. Most of that anxiety is either misplaced or stirred up by people on the right who think you can run an advanced civilised society on a Japanese-size tax base. They conclude with new moralists who would like the future to be censored, repressed and locked up inside the family.

The political fashionableness of the new moralism is not founded on changed public attitudes. Virginia Bottomley takes it upon herself to say that David Cronenberg's film *Crash*, so dreadful it should be banned. In taking such a view, she is speaking for about 19 per cent of the British population – the number of people who (according to the BSA) say a "film with a frank scene of man and woman having sex" should never be allowed on cinema screens. *British Social Attitudes* records majorities for banning adult telephone services and a higher proportion of people saying they would ban sex on the radio than in cinema.

That is not to say the British are permissive. On a scale of one to six, six representing showing everything to everyone and one a complete ban on all sex scenes everywhere, the national average is 2.55. It is when that is broken down for age and education the future starts to look liberal. The 18-24 age group scores 3.13 and graduates 3.00. And those figures link with BSA measure of attitudes to abortion and euthanasia.

The more, graduates, the more liberal the country becomes. The older today's young people get, the more liberal we get. The evidence is that people do not, as they age, get "crotchety like their parents". On the contrary, once picked up, liberalism lingers like a virus, what researchers call a cohort effect. "Society's attitudes are likely to become more permissive as younger cohorts replace the older ones," the survey says. The evidence predicts that 21st century Britain will have a strong liberal bedrock – unless tomorrow's young people turn reactionary and illiberal.



## Family life is victim of clock

Reports of the death of the family are much exaggerated, the research concludes, after examining the extent to which relatives keep in touch with each other and rely on family members for loans, help and advice.

But changes in the pattern of work, notably the growth in numbers of women in full-time employment, seems to have cut family contact among women.

Adult women in full-time work see much less of their mothers than they did a decade ago. In 1986 some 64 per cent of working women saw their mother (assuming she did not

live with her husband) at least once a week; by 1995 this was down to 45 per cent.

Despite growing mobility and a common tendency for people to move away from their family home to attend college and seek employment most family members still live within an hour's journey of one another.

Around two thirds of parents with grown up children live less than an hour's journey time away from at least one of their sons or daughters – down, but only slightly, on the figures for ten years ago.

Contact between relatives has fallen in recent years. But contact with friends has also fallen – suggesting it is change in work and leisure time that explains the change rather than some cataclysmic "decline of the family".

The family that prays together stays together... What the data shows is that church attenders score the highest on the researchers' "family orientation index" – a composite measure of attitudes towards family life and contacts. Pro-family families emerge as the most authoritarian, too.

## The not-so-flexible worker

Employees are now markedly less willing to retrain in order to get a new job than they were in the mid-1980s, while unemployed people are less willing than they ever were to take an "unacceptable" job rather than stay on benefits.

According to *British Social Attitudes* the "flexible labour market" wished by Government ministers is less in evidence now than ten years ago.

Asked if they would be willing to retrain to find a replacement job, 49 per cent of employees said they would be "very willing", compared with 54 per cent in 1983. Of the unem-

ployed 44 per cent were willing to retrain compared with 50 per cent a decade ago.

However there are some signs the unemployed are now more willing to think about moving house in order to find work. Some 59 per cent of the unemployed say they have never considered moving, down from 65 per cent in 1983.

The survey suggests that despite lots of talk about job insecurity peoples' attitudes towards the job market are more bullish than they have been for some time and their beliefs are founded on their experience. In 1995 13 per cent of employees had been with their present employer more than 20 years, compared with 11 per cent in this category in 1991 – suggesting there is a core of the workforce which is highly secure.

However more people than a decade ago consider it likely they will leave their present job during the year ahead and there has been a significant drop in the proportion of employees who consider it unlikely there won't be some disturbance in their employment in coming months.

### First across the Channel

As of now:

**First across the Channel**

thru

### Small, fat men with big columns fall out

Marianne Macdonald  
Media Correspondent

*Punch*, the reborn satirical magazine, seemed to have developed a curse which put *Hello* in the shade yesterday after its editor was sacked only a month after the premature departure of his deputy.

Peter McKay, the former gossip columnist with a reputation for enjoying the good things in life, left yesterday after a showdown with his chairman, the former London *Evening Standard* editor Stewart Stevenson.

Mr McKay had been appointed editor in March by Mr Stevenson, his old friend and former editor at the *Standard*.

His job was to relaunch *Punch* for its new owner, the Harrods proprietor Mohamed al-Fayed, four years after the 151-year-old magazine was closed by United Newspapers amid film annual losses and the image of being read only in dentists' waiting rooms. Mr McKay was paid a salary of £100,000, but allegedly on condition that he did not write for any other publication without Mr Stevenson's written permission.

To Mr Stevenson's surprise, therefore, he opened the *Daily Mail* at the start of this month to see a column by Peter McKay. This is understood to have caused a difference of opinion between the two old friends, with Mr Stevenson taking the view that he would be unable to carry out the difficult task of successfully relaunching *Punch* if he was devoting some of his time to the *Daily Mail*.

The column duly disappeared after its first foray, and Fleet Street observers concluded that that was the end of that.

Imagine Mr Stevenson's astonishment, then, on opening the *Mail* on Monday to find his editor once again gracing the comment pages with a column.

By now relations are said to have soured somewhat, with Mr McKay arguing that he was perfectly entitled to write a column in his spare time on Sunday and Mr Stevenson arguing that he was not.

A formal warning, the saga came to a head. Mr McKay refused to drop his column, arguing in his defence that Mr Stevenson himself found time to write a political column for the *Mail* on Sunday.

The dispute was not helped by *Punch*'s feeble circulation, which at around 45,000 is barely more than when it was closed by United.

Mr McKay finally left the magazine yesterday without a pay-off two months after it was launched with a glittering party at Harrods, and one month after his deputy, Mike Molloy, also departed.

It is not clear whether Mr McKay will take legal action.

Mr Stevenson said last night: "I'm very sorry that Peter McKay has left. I believe he had the chance of turning *Punch* round, but he behaved in a fashion which made it inevitable that I could no longer work with him."

Mr Stevenson, who now finds himself back in the editing seat, is expected to begin the search for a replacement at once. As he has in his gift what some regard as one of the best jobs in Fleet Street, with opportunities to be seen around town and a salary larger than some newspaper editors are paid, the task may not prove too onerous.

Knock-out Punch: McKay in characteristic guise, and his first issue Photograph:

### Hel-last back.\*

You can now be in Zurich by 9 a.m., board a connecting flight before 10, and beat many London nonstops to your European destination. After business, take an early evening flight to Zurich and our 8:50 p.m. to London.

You couldn't spend your day much more efficiently than that. And better cared for: by Swissair hospitality.

The catch? You'll have to be an early bird (but not necessarily a night owl).

swissair world's most refreshing airline.

news

Figures hide the fact that £10m building is designed to integrate children with a range of special needs

# Real story behind the school with the nation's worst results

Fran Abrams  
Education Correspondent

Yesterday Filsham Valley School came bottom in the Government's school league tables — one of only two comprehensives in England where no pupil gained five high-grade GCSEs.

This might have been just the sort of school whose failures ministers aimed to expose when they spent £1.2m on publishing all exam results, but it isn't.

Gillian Shephard, Secretary of State for Education, clearly did not think so when she officially opened the East Sussex comprehensive in May, two years after it took in its first pupils.

The parents of last year's four GCSE students, all of whom had special educational needs, did not think so, either. They were delighted that their children had taken the exams at all. A glance at the tables might leave the impression that Filsham Valley is just another struggling comprehensive. In fact, it is the first of its kind in the country: a brand new, £10m building designed to integrate pupils with physical and sensory disabilities into mainstream education.

The first three year-groups each have a full complement of more than 120 children, including seven with special needs who work alongside them. The top two years each have a handful of children with disabilities who come from a local special school which has closed.

This year's 16-year-olds, who would not have taken exams in the special school, managed 12 GCSEs between them, one gaining seven including two grade Cs. The boy's moth-

er visited the school in September and thanked staff for the help they had given him. He is now taking an information technology course at college and is talking about going to university.

League tables, though, do not provide the flexibility needed to describe such achievements. Inspectors from the Office for Standards in Education, due to visit the school in January, are unlikely to criticise it for its low exam performance, though, or for its high absence rate — some children were away for the whole of last year, having medical treatment.

Local parents are not anxious to criticise the school, either. They are keen to bring their children to one of Britain's best-equipped schools.

With four technology rooms and with modern studios for recording, dance and drama, most people who come here are deeply impressed.

The head teacher, John Voice, is not unduly worried about Filsham Valley's league-table ranking.

Local people know why it sits so far down the list, he said, and the local papers will probably not even mention it.

The inclusion of the school makes a mockery of the tables, he said. "We were very pleased with the GCSE results last summer," he added. "Each pupil performed above their expected level."

However, future tables should show Filsham Valley in a far better light.

"We look forward to being the most-improved school when we begin to take GCSE with the comprehensive intake," Mr Voice said. "It will, however, be another meaningless statistic."



Thriving in the shadows: The pupils of Filsham Valley School achieve highly given their difficulties, but the league table give them no credit

Photograph: Glynn Griffiths

## Shephard ultimatum to Ridings authority

Judith Judd  
Education Editor

Inspectors will be sent into all schools in Calderdale, West Yorkshire, unless the Labour authority agrees to an investigation of its services by Friday, Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, threatened yesterday.

She asked Tony Blair, the Labour leader, and David Blunkett, the shadow education secretary, to support her demand for an inspection of the council, which admitted that it had failed the Ridings school.

Labour said she was merely trying to divert attention from an international report on maths and science which shows English 13-year-olds lagging behind most of the rest of Europe in maths. A spokesman said Calderdale had already said publicly that it would co-operate with any inspection. The only issue was timing.

Mrs Shephard asked Calderdale to volunteer for inspection after inspectors failed the Ridings school. They said bad teaching, poor management and the authority were all to blame.

The Government cannot force a local authority to co-operate with such an inspection, though the Education Bill going through the Commons would enable it to do so in future.

However, the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) has powers to inspect any school and could inspect all Calderdale's schools.

Last week, the council said in reply to Mrs Shephard's request that it was considering setting up its own independent review and wanted "detailed discussions" on the scope of the proposed inspection.

Mrs Shephard said: "Calderdale's handling of the Ridings school has achieved national notoriety. It is outrageous that the authority should be anything other than wholly co-operative in welcoming an independent Ofsted inspection of their services to

pupils and parents." In a letter to the council, she demanded a definite response without conditions by the end of the week. The inspection is scheduled for the first week of December.

An Ofsted spokesman said: "We are ready to inspect Calderdale and are disappointed by their prevarication."

A Labour spokesman said: "Mrs Shephard knows perfectly well that Calderdale has agreed to co-operate. She seems to be trying to create a conflict where none exists."

BUYING  
COMPAQ COMPUTERS  
WITH HUGE SAVINGS  
COULDN'T BE EASIER.  
WE'VE EVEN RINGED THE  
NUMBER FOR YOU.

Tel: 0345 02 38 63

ESS is a leading supplier of Compaq PCs, Notebooks and Servers and we can provide complete network solutions using our Novell and NT skills. We are experienced at supplying servers for the small business through to



£2399

Plus VAT at 17.5%

large corporate servers.

ESS can supply the ProSignia 500 from stock, immediately, at these extremely aggressive prices.

Prices for other configurations can be found on our web site: [www.ess.co.uk](http://www.ess.co.uk)

ProSignia 500: 5.120 Model 2100, Intel Pentium® 150-MHz processor, 2.1-GB Fast-SCSI 2 drive, 32-MB memory.

ESS

Small Business Specialists

ORDER HOTLINE Tel: 0345 02 38 63

COMPAQ COSTS LESS THAN CHEAPER COMPUTERS

© 1996 Compaq Computer Corporation. All rights reserved. Compaq, the Compaq logo, and ProSignia are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation.

## CUT THE COST OF YOUR MORTGAGE

**SAVE OVER £8,000 ON YOUR MORTGAGE\***

**SAVE ON YOUR LEGAL FEES WITH £250.00 CASHBACK**

**SAVE TIME BY ORGANISING YOUR MORTGAGE OVER THE PHONE**

WHETHER YOU ARE MOVING OR REMORTGAGING, PHONE NOW TO FIND OUT HOW MUCH YOU COULD SAVE ON YOUR MORTGAGE.

mortgages  
direct  
**BRADFORD & BINGLEY**  
BUILDING SOCIETY

**0345 852 852**

to apply or request further details. Lines open Monday-Friday 9.00am-8.00pm. Saturdays 9.00am-12.00pm. Enquiries service until 10pm daily. Please ask for extension 1230.

At Mortgages Direct we believe in keeping down the cost of your mortgage. We offer a genuine long term low cost mortgage with a rate of 5.99% (APR 6.1% variable). This means that based on today's rates you could make a total saving of over £8,000 on a mortgage of £60,000 taken over 25 years\*. What's more, we'll always try to ensure that it remains at a competitive rate throughout the whole of its life. Once your mortgage is complete, we won't charge you any additional penalty should you decide to leave. To apply for your mortgage or just to find out more, call us now and see how much you could save.

\*For this example the typical standard mortgage rate charged is that of Bradford & Bingley Building Society as at 11th September 1996. Savings based on a house purchase loan of £60,000 taken on an interest only basis over a term of 25 years. Rate currently 4.49% in the first two years (2.25% discount) and 6.74% for the remainder of the term. Savings are based on current rates available from any lender of Bradford & Bingley Building Society. Rates of Bradford & Bingley are variable. The Mortgage Direct offer is not available to existing Bradford & Bingley borrowers who are not moving house. For applications through the Society's Mortgage Direct service, the loan must not exceed 75% of the purchase price/valuation (whichever is the lower).  
TYPICAL EXAMPLE: A mortgage of £60,000 completed on 1st March 1996 taken on an "Interest Only" basis, with one capital repayment of £60,000 being made at the end of the term. The rate of 4.49% would secure an APR of 6.1% (variable). Gross monthly interest only mortgage repayments of £299.61 during the mortgage term. Total sum due paid at 11th Sept 1996 is £13,912.33. The mortgage advance of £60,000 and interest of £299.61 for the period March 1996 to 1st March 1997 is £17,500.00. In this example, a valuation fee of £150.00 would be payable on application. Example assumes a current rate of 5.99% (APR 6.1% variable) and this rate applies throughout the term of the loan. This fee is variable and the rate at any time during the loan term may differ from that quoted in this advertisement. A Mortgage Direct rate change is not possible for this example. Rates quoted are variable, so therefore in the 12th month subject to status and valuation. Mortgage repayments are subject to a 1% increase in the 12th month. Your home is at risk if you do not keep up repayments on a mortgage or other loan secured on it. Bradford & Bingley Building Society is regulated by the Financial Services Authority for mortgage business. Head Office: PO Box 90, Garsdale, Bingley, West Yorkshire, BD10 9L.

مكتبة الادب

1550 من المصنوع

# Former Labour deputy leader fined £75 by the beak after his dog is involved in bloody killing of royal goose

## Hattersley harbours ferocious killer

Michael Streeter

The last time the Labour MP and former minister Roy Hattersley declined to appear for a public engagement, the producers of BBC's satirical *Have I Got News For You* memorably replaced him with a tub of lard.

Yesterday, when the eloquent elder statesman exercised his right not to appear at Bow Street Magistrates, central London, there was no obvious cooking material on show; but the culinary theme was kept alive in a hearing dominated by a dead goose.

The bird in question was an innocent grey-lag goose lounging in St James's Park before it was fatally savaged by the Birmingham MP's Staffordshire bull terrier Buster.

To a courtroom crowded with journalists for a case lasting just three minutes, Richard Heatley, for the prosecution, outlined the main details of the offences.

He described how police officers patrolling the park at 8.15am on April 8 this year came across the goose so badly injured it was "close to death".

Within an hour witnesses had fingered the former shadow home secretary's "small brown dog" and Mr Hattersley was interviewed and cautioned at his nearby home.

At this point the stipendiary magistrate, Ronald Bartell, intervened to ask whether the unfortunate goose had been destroyed, to be told that sadly, the animal had died "as a result of its injuries".

The courtroom revelations



Dog's life: Hattersley and his dog Buster (right) were absent from the hearing. In another famous absence on *Have I Got News For You*, he was replaced with a tub of lard

did not stop there. Questioned by the police, Mr Hattersley said he thought his pet had been chasing a squirrel rather than a goose, and later in his letter of mitigation described how he "cleared up" after his hound had responded to a call of nature - only for the dog to escape. Mr Hattersley, who pleaded guilty by letter to two offences in breach of royal park regulations, added the dog had not been intentionally let loose, and that he "much regretted" the goose's demise.

He also promised to the court he would keep Buster on a tighter leash in future to ensure no repetition of the incident.

The MP, who is standing down at the next general election, was fined £75 for allowing the dog off the lead and permitting it to attack the goose, and ordered to pay £30 costs. Later a spokesman for Mr Hattersley, who was speaking in his Sparkbrook constituency yesterday, issued a statement from Mr Hattersley again re-

gretting the incident but clearly pointing the finger at his dog's headstrong nature. "He [Buster] was never detached from the lead. Unfortunately I was."

His office was unable to confirm reports that Buster had paid the ultimate price for his misdeeds and been castrated after the April attack.

But the dog has clearly been rehabilitated in the politician's household - today he joins his owner for walks in Derbyshire.



## Memory pill helps to roll back the years

Liz Hunt  
Health Editor

A "memory" pill that helps old people to recall information as easily and accurately as people 50 years their junior is undergoing trials in California and Sweden.

Scientists at a conference in Washington DC heard that the drug, containing chemicals known as ampakines, also improves recall in people as young as 20.

Dr Gary Lynch, a neuropharmacologist at the University of California at Irvine, said the drugs could one day be used by students cramming for exams. "We're going to need some kind of legislation on how we use these drugs," he told the Society for Neuroscience.

The findings have implications for those with Alzheimer's disease, which causes progressive dementia.

In the study, at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, a dozen men aged between 65 and 73 who were taking the drug scored higher in memory tests than men taking a placebo. Medium doses of ampakines doubled their scores, according to a report in *New Scientist*, while higher doses trebled them, bringing the scores into the range seen for 20- to 25-year-olds. In younger people the effect was less dramatic but still detectable.

Ampakines are thought to improve the flow of information between cells.

Any therapeutic drug based on the chemical is some years away but American scientists plan to try it on Alzheimer's patients early next year.

## British Library is £511m waste of money, say MPs

Christian Wolmar  
Westminster Correspondent

The building of the British Library "could be used as a model of how not to manage a major construction project", according to a report by an all-party group of MPs.

While the scheme has attracted criticism before because of the constantly rising costs and the lack of controls, this attack by the Commons Public Accounts Committee is remarkable in the strength of its language. It adds: "We look to the Treasury to ensure that all government departments and agencies are made aware of the lessons which have arisen."

The Committee, which examined the National Audit Office report published in May, criticises virtually every aspect of the project, from the outset when no budget was drawn up for the whole project, until the present time, when, as recently as June 1996, the cash limit was increased from £450m to £511m.

Most of the increase came in the early stages of the project and relate to unsound electrical cabling, faulty fire-sprinklers and a defective mechanical book shelving system.

Construction of the new library at St Pancras, first announced in 1974, was started in 1982, but now the building will

not be completed until 1999 (after initially being promised for 1991). Yet, despite the expenditure of such a huge sum, the library will provide only 12 per cent more seats than the existing Bloomsbury premises in the British Museum.

The Committee lays the blame on the Department of National Heritage, which is now responsible for the project.

It is particularly critical of Laming Management, the construction managers, whom the department estimates will receive £38m in fees by the time the project is completed. This is because most of the fees were based on the construction cost and as it rose, so did the fee.

## THE FORECAST IS HEAVY SNOW WITH SOME AREAS REMAINING DRY.

Silicone impregnated leather, a glove leather lining and four rows of latex sealed stitching. The original Timberland tan buck boot, guaranteed to be waterproof. Isn't that a comforting thought?



Timberland

Timberland, 72 New Bond Street & Harrods 5th Floor.  
Call 0345 66 99 88 for local stockist.

# Two phones.

# One bill.

Orange Talkshare. Two reduced price phones. One Talk Plan with shared minutes. One connection charge. One monthly bill.

- 60 minutes of free talk time to share each month for only £37.50 (plus VAT).
- Calls between Orange phones only 10p per minute (plus VAT) throughout the week.
- Weekend calls only 5p per minute (plus VAT) for all local, national and Orange to Orange calls.
- Orange benefits include per second billing, free 12 months insurance with

Dancall dc1 twin pack  
**£29.99** (r.r.p.)

- 24 hour replacement and a 14 day money back guarantee.
- Both phones will receive new numbers from Orange Personal Communications Services Ltd.
- Connection to Orange Talkshare is subject to status and a one off connection charge of £30 (plus VAT).
- Your Orange contract will be for a minimum of 12 months.

Find out more about Talkshare at

# Dixons

Ask in store for details. Call 0181 200 0300 for your nearest store.

orange

## news



Class action: Students at the launch in Kennington, south London, of the Campaign for Free Education. Speakers at the rally included the veteran Labour MP Tony Benn

Photograph: Nik Strangelove

# Fuses blow over Tory tax 'bombshell'

Political crossfire leaves casualties as civil service head dragged into row

Anthony Bevins  
Political Editor

Labour and the Conservatives were locked in combat last night after the Tories dropped their latest tax "bombshell". Treasury Chief Secretary William Waldegrave said shadow Chancellor Gordon Brown was planning 89 tax and spend policies that would add a further £30 billion to public spending - costing the average family an around £1,200 a year. Mr Brown opened up a Labour counter-barrage, saying: "Having lied about their own tax plans, and raised taxes 22 times against all promises, they are now lying about Labour's tax and spending plans." The exercise left a significant number of casualties including collateral, friendly-fire injuries suffered by Sir Robin Butler, Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Home Civil Service, who was dragged into the centre of a crude political dogfight. In February, Sir Robin instructed Whitehall officials to obey ministerial instructions on the costing of Opposition policies. The second victim was Mr Waldegrave, who faced a revival of the highly-damaging complaints made against him in the Scott report on arms to Iraq, which accused him of using "sophistry", and making statements that were "apt to mislead", "not remotely arguable". "Incapable

of being sustained by serious argument" and just plain "untrue". Labour was also shown to have made statements that might have been taken as pledges, but which Mr Brown yesterday flatly repudiated. He made it plain, for example that, Labour's commitment to a publicly owned and accountable railway system was not a priority. "We have made no financial commitment to that," Mr Brown said. "What we have said is that British Rail will be re-created as a public-led body. But we are making no commitment to buying shares or anything else." The day's battle began with Mr Waldegrave issuing a dossier listing 89 alleged Labour commitments. "Each is backed by firm pledges from Labour spokesmen or in Labour Party documents," Mr Waldegrave said. "The total cost of these commitments comes to £30 billion." Labour replied in the afternoon with a dossier of its own, repudiating the basis of the Tory allegations - attempting to defuse the "bombshell" that worked so effectively in the last General Election. Rebuttal followed rebuttal as the day wore on, with the Conservatives issuing a further dossier at 7pm, headed, *Labour's £30 billion Cover-up: Labour's Rebuttal Rebutted*. Mr Waldegrave said: "At the end of a day of hot air from a clearly rattled Labour Party, round one has been won by the Conservative Party."

That result was less clear-cut to those who had tried to get Mr Waldegrave to answer some basic questions at his morning press conference. He had said that the £30bn costing was "equivalent to Labour putting the basic rate of income tax back up from 24 pence to 33 pence, the level under the last Labour Government, and the higher rate up from 40 pence to 70 pence. That would cost the average family around £1,200 a year." However, when Mr Waldegrave was asked to say how much Conservative tax increases had cost the average family since the last election, he became coy. "We had to put up tax during the recession in order to pay for spending at the present level. Neither Mr Waldegrave, nor Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, would repeat the commitment given during the last election, that there would be no further extension of value-added tax - a 1992 pledge broken with VAT on domestic fuel and power. Opening a pre-emptive strike against the Conservatives last week, Mr Brown said: "The Tories have raised taxes 22 times since the last election, including the rise in National Insurance, cutting the married couple's, cutting mortgage interest tax relief, and the unfair tax of all VAT on fuel. If the Chancellor cuts the basic rate of tax by 2p in the Budget, the typical family will still be paying almost £500 more in tax per year."



Dogfight between Waldegrave (above) Brown left casualties



## The Tories' sums and how Labour answered them

### That Labour will:

#### Introduce national minimum wage

Tory costing: £3,700m

Source: "There should be and will be... a statutory minimum wage" (Tony Blair 1996 Labour conference). Costing assumption: Impact on public sector pay bill of minimum wage set at half median male earnings, with domino effect on differentials.

Labour response: The minimum wage level will be set "according to the economic circumstances of the time".

#### Increase spending on house-building

Tory costing: £2,600m

Source: "We need to... allow local councils to invest capital receipts to build and renovate homes." (Draft manifesto, *New Labour, New Life for Britain*, 1996). Costing assumption: Total amount of capital receipts set aside since 1990 in England, estimated at £7.3bn. If released over five years at £1.5bn a year, could be topped up with annual receipts.

Labour response: "All of Labour's plans for council house spending will come from the phased release of existing receipts currently held by local authorities."

#### Increase overseas aid

Tory costing: £2,298m

Source: "Labour will start to reverse the decline in UK aid spending." (*New Labour, New Life*). Costing assumption: Restoration of the aid budget to the 1973 level, of 0.52 per cent of GNP.

Labour response: Labour has no such commitment.

#### Reduce social security benefit tapers

Tory costing: £2,000m

Source: "We will combine our long-term objective of a lower rate of income tax... with reductions in the rate of benefit withdrawal." (*New Labour, New Life*). Costing assumption: A reduction of the maximum marginal rate of benefit withdrawal, for every extra £1 earned, from 97 per cent to 84 per cent. Labour response: Initial outlay would come from anti-fraud measures, but "we expect that within three years of implementation, a benefit-to-work strategy... will start to reap substantial savings for the taxpayer."

### Return business rates to local control: Costing £1,400m.

Source: "We propose to return the business rate to local control subject to protection for local businesses." (*New Opportunities for Business*, 1996).

Costing assumption: Increase of 1.9 per cent a year in business rate - an extra one percentage point.

Labour response: Their approach "not designed to raise more money but to assist the development of a real partnership between the business and the locality."

### Introduce sabbaticals for teachers

Tory costing: £1,300m.

Source: "We should explore arrangements to provide sabbatical terms to help people recharge batteries and further develop their skills." (Blair, January 1996). Costing assumption: Teachers with 10 years' service taking four months off; those with 15 years' service taking full year; and 170,000 teachers with current 15 years' service. Cost of £4.25bn spread over five years. Labour response: Spokesman David Blunkett said that costs would have to be funded from existing resources; lower early retirement costs and industry sponsorships. "There would be no new money."

### End council tax capping

Tory costing: £1,200m

Source: "Crude council tax capping should go, though as any government must, we will retain reserve powers in extreme cases." (*New Labour, New Life*). Costing assumption: Local authority spending increase of extra one percentage point a year, equivalent to 1.9 per cent increase in council tax.

Labour response: "We will retain reserve powers."

### Minimum guaranteed income for pensioners

Costing: £1,100m

Source: "Labour will... examine ways of getting better automatic help to the poorest pensioners." (*New Labour, New Life*). Costing assumption: A minimum guaranteed income of £80 a week would cost £4,300m. Labour response: "We believe that the pension entitlement could achieve significant savings in the administration of the benefits system."

## Five hard-and-fast pledges are endorsed by party rank and file

Anthony Bevins

Labour has just five hard-and-fast pledges, the solid commitments that the party agreed in its draft manifesto, *New Labour, New Life for Britain*.

The pledges, endorsed by a mass vote of rank-and-file party members, are:

- A cut in class sizes to 30 or under for all five-, six- and seven-year-olds;
- Fast-track punishment for persistent young offenders;
- Cut National Health Service waiting lists by treating an extra 100,000 patients;
- Get 250,000 under-25s off benefit and into work; and
- Set tough rules for government spending and borrowing, ensure lower inflation, and strengthen the economy.

Labour says that it would finance the cut in class sizes by phasing out the assisted-places scheme, but the Tories estimate that would pay for less than one-third of the cost.

The bill for action could look very different from the account presented

Yesterday's Conservative dossier said that statisticians at the Department of Education and Employment "calculate that between 4,900 and 10,300 extra teachers would be needed in England and Wales" to fulfil the pledge. The total cost for the United Kingdom is put at £210m.

Even the Conservatives calculate that Labour's fast-track punishment for young offenders would cost only £5m.

Labour says that it would provide funding for a cut in National Health Service waiting lists by "releasing £100m saved from NHS red tape". The Conserv-

atives said yesterday that it would cost considerably more to cut waiting lists by 100,000.

It said: "Labour claim that this money would be redirected from the cost of administering the internal market. However, abolishing the internal market would in fact cost more money."

As for the long-standing commitment on unemployed under-25s, Labour has said it would fund that by using some of the money raised from the windfall tax on privatised utilities.

Yesterday's Conservative costing on that pledge was £500m, with 400,000 under-25s unemployed for more than six months each year. The gross cost would be an estimated £860m, with benefit savings of £420m, but there would be extra first-year costs, according to the Tory dossier, because action would need to be taken for the existing pool of 270,000 under-25s unemployed for more than 6 months.



Big enough, if you are.

Audi

Call 0345 699 777 for the bigger picture on the new Audi A3.

## Amazing technology. Incredible price.

- DELL DIMENSION™ XPS PRO 180n
- INTEL® 180MHz PENTIUM® PRO PROCESSOR
  - 16Mb EDO RAM
  - 256KB CACHE, 2Gb EIDE HARD DRIVE
  - NUMBER 9 REALITY 332 PCI GRAPHICS CARD WITH 2MB VIDEO MEMORY
  - 15" COLOUR SVGA MONITOR 113.75" VIEWABLE AREA
  - EIGHT SPEED CD-ROM DRIVE
  - MINI TOWER OR MID-SIZED DESKTOP CHASSIS
  - WINDOWS 95 & MICROSOFT® OFFICE PROFESSIONAL 95

DELL DIMENSION XPS Pro 180n  
**£1,299 (£1,555.70 incl. delivery & VAT)**



How can Dell offer a PC with the latest 180MHz Pentium® Pro processor and Microsoft® Office Professional for just £1,299 (£1,555.70 incl. Del. & VAT)? It's thanks to our strategic alliances with other industry leaders like Intel® and Microsoft® - and our determination to give you the best value possible.



We'll even upgrade this system to include a 3Gb Hard Drive and 12-Speed CD-ROM Drive for only £100 extra (£117.50 incl. VAT). Call us now on 01344 724621 and prepare to be astounded.



TALK DIRECT TO THE NUMBER ONE.  
**01344 724621**  
Between 8am and 8pm weekdays, 10am to 4pm Sat.

0800 000 000

## Justice system for juveniles attacked as shambles despite costing £1bn a year

## Diversion tactic cuts youth crime

It points out that although there are a number of programmes designed to prevent offending they are not assessed regularly, "so there is no opportunity to learn from experience". The report recommends

But David Maclean, the Home Office minister, argued that action was being taken to speed up courts and deal with school discipline.



Photograph: David Rosa

■ Greater co-ordination in local authorities and central government needed

The Audit Commission has highlighted the unit as an example of a "caution plus" programme - one which steers young offenders away from

is that working with us is too hard," she said. "We confront them. We say: 'You know you've committed this offence. What are you going to do about it?'"

Audit Commission Publications Hotline

**THE INDEPENDENT**

**not the suspense.**


**10%** gross p.a.  
**Limited offer.**

Invest in a Nationwide Fixed Growth Bond  
and that's exactly what you'll get. The rates rise  
annually, delivering 6% in year 1, 6.5% in year 2,

With no outside shareholders to keep happy we're free to put our customers first, and plough profits back in the form of higher investment returns. You don't need to be a big investor to benefit – the minimum investment is just £1,000.

So if you're after a guaranteed return without the suspense, why not drop into your local Natwest branch and start building for your future.

## In tune with people



**Nationwide**  
THE BUILDING SOCIETY

Find us on the Internet at <http://www.nationwide.co.uk>

[illegible]

## politics

# Euro-sceptics win vote with Labour help

Colin Brown  
Chief Political Correspondent

Tory Euro-sceptics yesterday joined Labour to inflict an embarrassing defeat on the Government over claims that Britain's "opt out" from the European single currency has been undermined by Brussels.

John Major now faces the threat of renewed Tory backbench rebellions in the run-up to the election, unless he blocks the measures by the European Commission which the Tory MPs claim would rob Britain of its opt-out and hand control of monetary policy from the Chancellor to the Governor of the Bank of England.

Tory Euro-sceptic MPs packed into a meeting in a committee room at Westminster to give a show of strength against the Government for refusing to allow the claims to be aired in the chamber of the Commons.

The Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, was drawn into the row to force the Government to back down and allow the debate to go ahead, after the defeat by six votes to seven in the committee.

Tory MP John Whittingdale, a former aide to Baroness

Thatcher, broke the Government's majority when he voted with Opposition MPs.

The rebellion was seen as a clear threat by the Euro-sceptics to end their pre-election truce with the Government if John Major fails to reject the proposals by the European Commission which they claim would open Britain to fines for failing to meet the targets on debt for those inside the European single currency.

The Prime Minister shrugged off the defeat and the threat of fines was "something right at the end of the road ... So it is very much a last resort. This is one of the things that is being discussed as part of the so-called stability pact."

The call for a full debate on European Monetary Union was also backed by Tory former ministers Kenneth Baker, John Redwood and chairman of the Foreign Affairs select committee David Howell.

Mr Redwood said Commission proposals would mean Britain would be forced to accept "price stability" as its prime target for the economy. "The Government should tell us how high interest rates would have to go to get down to zero in-

flation," he said.

The row came as Robin Cook, Labour's foreign spokesman, signalled that moves on a referendum on Britain's entry into a single currency could come early in a Parliament under a Labour government.

A Referendum Act, could pave the way for Labour's plans for wide-scale constitutional reform and Britain's entry into a single currency, Mr Cook told a Westminster press gallery luncheon.

Labour is planning a series of referendums, including one on devolved powers to a Scottish Parliament, and the "parent" referendum act could therefore avoid rows over each of the measures blocking Labour's legislative programme.

The referendum could be triggered by an order which could be passed later through Parliament with a simple majority vote. The will be seen as an attempt to avoid the referendum on a single currency being blocked by Euro sceptic Parliamentary tactics and the business of a Labour government becoming bogged down in the early months after the general election.

## Minister barks up right tree



John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, hugging a silver birch which he planted yesterday outside St Thomas's Hospital, London, to mark National Tree week. "I was told it would be good for me and I'll do anything that's good for me," he said.

## Supersurgery revolution put back a year

Colin Brown  
Chief Political Correspondent

Pilot schemes for family doctors' "supersurgeries" and perhaps health clinics in supermarkets will be delayed for a year under the NHS Primary Care Bill published yesterday by the Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell.

The Bill allocates £6m for the preparation of the plans by doctors for expanding their services, but none of the pilot schemes will be given the go-ahead until the next financial year, starting in April 1998.

Although the measure is a flagship for the Tories in the run-up to the election, it signalled the Government will use the extra £500m for the health service to be announced with the Chancellor's Budget next week to avert a crisis this winter in NHS hospitals.

The Independent has learned that Mr Dorrell is expecting hospitals to make ends meet this winter with flexibility over the rules requiring a 6 per cent return on capital.

Mr Dorrell came under fire in the Commons yesterday from Chris Smith, Labour's health spokesman, for the spending crisis facing hospitals this winter, but he ruled out any emergency injection of cash before the end of the year.

It is expected that Mr Dorrell

will announce that national pay awards for NHS managers will be held down while more generous pay awards are given to nurses and doctors next year to answer Labour's allegations that the higher spending on the NHS is being swallowed up by bureaucrats.

The health minister, Baroness Cumberlege, and Baroness Jay, the Labour front bench spokeswoman on health, will go "head to head" in the Lords over the Bill, which is due in the Commons in January.

Under the Bill, family doctors will be able to open "supersurgeries" offering NHS patients a wider range of services, including small operations and special care for chronic illnesses such as asthma.

Hospitals will be able to employ GPs for the first time, but there is a power in the bill to allow organisations outside the NHS, which could include supermarkets, to offer primary care on the NHS.

A White Paper to be published next month will pave the way for nurses at practices to do work which is currently reserved for GPs.

The BMA is pushing for GPs to be given a "core contract" with payments for all additional items, but ministers are resisting the idea because of the potential cost.

## Save water now or be caught short in future

Nicholas Schoon  
Environment Correspondent

The nation's toilets need changing, urgently, to cut water wastage and reduce the risk of shortages, a cross-party committee of MPs said yesterday.

In a report prompted by several severe droughts in the past seven years, the House of Commons Environment Committee said: "Reducing the volume of water being flushed down WCs is a priority."

That measure alone could cut household consumption by 10 per cent - "sufficient to mitigate any effects of climate change which are now predicted to occur."

The committee wants the standard flush on all new cisterns to be six litres, and incentives to encourage people to replace their current nine- or 13-litre cisterns. "We cannot afford to wait 50 years for old cisterns to wear out," says its report.

But for the water companies,

the highest priority of all should be to reduce mains leakage: for some companies a quarter or more of water collected and treated escapes before it reaches the customers. The industry's regulator, Ofwat, should set a maximum limit for companies on how much can seep out of their pipe networks "as soon as possible", said the committee chairman Andrew Bennett.

The report is highly sceptical about increasing the number of water meters as a way of persuading customers to use water more wisely. The MPs visited low-income families on a London estate with meters.

"We saw families beset by worries about paying metered water charges," says their report. They accepted evidence that hygiene might be threatened and disease encouraged when poor, anxious people wash themselves and their clothes less, share baths and flush the toilet less frequently.

But the MPs also doubted whether metering would make affluent households which are heavy water users - those with big gardens and sprinklers, and swimming pools - use less.

Instead of meters, other ways of curbing households' steadily rising demand for water should be tried. Dishwashers and washing machines which minimise water use should be given "eco-labels".

□ The sea water at 10 per cent of Britain's 472 designated bathing beaches still failed to meet the minimum, basic standards for sewage bacteria set by the European Union this summer, the Government said yesterday.

The directive came into force nearly 20 years ago but Britain was allowed to comply by the end of 1995; it still fails to. The Government said the water industry, now privatised in England and Wales, had spent £2bn in recent years on coastal sewerage improvements which had pushed up the pass rate for beaches from below 70 per cent to 90 per cent.

# Dixons

## FREE

UP TO 500 BT MINUTES  
WITH PHONES AND FAXES  
OVER £20

## FREE BACKPACK

WITH ALL CORDLESS  
PHONES OVER £30

PLUS  
A CHANCE  
TO WIN A  
HOLIDAY TO  
AUSTRALIA

By redemption. Ask in-store for details.



**PHILIPS TD 9571 DIGITAL CORDLESS PHONE**

- Outstanding call quality with no eavesdropping.
- 10 hours talktime/40 hours standby time.
- 20 alphanumeric memories.
- 300 metre range.
- Paging facility between base and handset.

**WAS £199.99**

£179.99

Dixons Deal

FREE BACKPACK

PHONES - SAVE UP TO £10

**PHILIPS 9048**

SLIMLINE TELEPHONE

- Last number redial.
- Tone and pulse dialling.
- Well mountable.

Was £22.99

£9.99

Dixons Deal

SAVE £3

**PHILIPS PAGE 900**

TELEPHONE

- 12 number memory.
- Backlit keypad.
- Last number redial.
- Finger volume control.

Was £22.99

£17.99

Dixons Deal

SAVE £10

DIGITALLY ENHANCED  
CORDLESS TECHNOLOGY

PHILIPS TD 9571 DIGITAL CORDLESS PHONE

£179.99

Dixons Deal

FREE BACKPACK

ANSWER MACHINE - SAVE £5

**PHILIPS TD6388**

TELEPHONE ANSWERING MACHINE

- Digital outgoing message.
- Message count indicator.
- Remote control.

Was £24.99

£29.99

Dixons Deal

100 FREE BT MINUTES

FAX - SAVE £50

**PHILIPS HCF10**

FAX/PHONE AND ANSWERING MACHINE

- 51 number memory.
- Copy and paper cutter.
- Paper out fax memory.

Was £249.99

£299.99

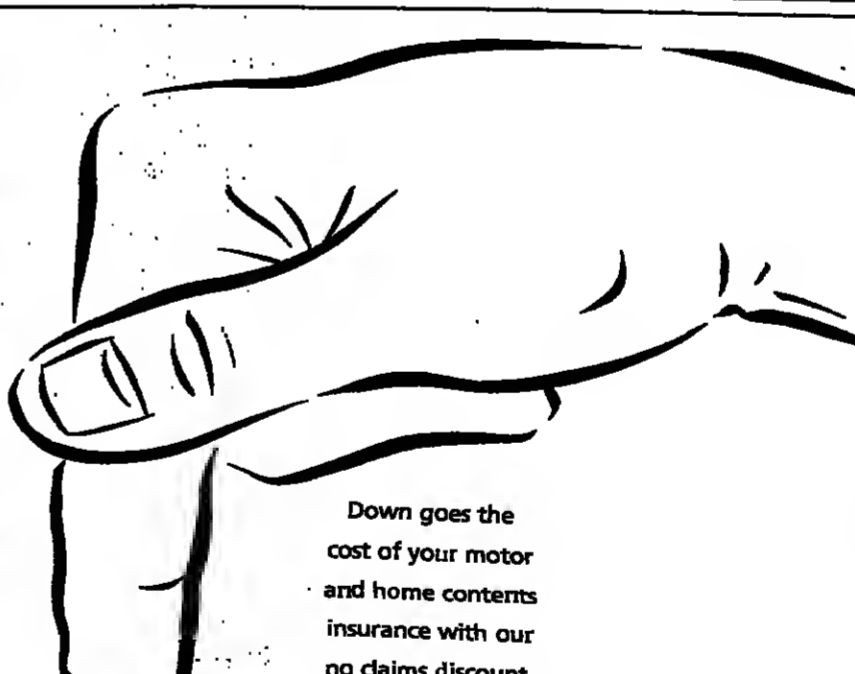
Dixons Deal

250 FREE BT MINUTES

# Dixons

ORDER BY PHONE  
CALL FREEPHONE 0500 50 40 30  
All major credit cards accepted

THERE'S A GREAT DEAL  
GOING ON THIS CHRISTMAS



Down goes the  
cost of your motor  
and home contents  
insurance with our  
no claims discount.  
Call now for details.

YOUR MOTOR AND HOME CONTENTS  
WITH OUR NO CLAIMS DISCOUNT.

LOWER  
INSURANCE

General Accident  
Direct

GA

MOTOR INSURANCE BUILDINGS & CONTENTS  
0800 121 000 0800 121 004

PAY BY INSTALMENTS INTEREST FREE

MORTGAGE PAYMENT PROTECTION 0800 121 008 TRAVEL 0800 121 007

Weekdays 8am - 9pm, Sat 9am - 5pm. **FREEPOST**  
\*Written details on request. General Accident Direct, FREEPOST, Hamilton ML3 1BR.  
<http://www.ga.co.uk/gadirect>

## WAX ON

Protect your car with  
Wax On Wax Off

PHONE NOW  
0800 121 000

مكتبة الامم

# Film crashes into barrier over cuts

Marianne Macdonald  
Media Correspondent

**Crash**, David Cronenberg's disturbing film about a group of people who find car crashes and resulting injuries erotic, has been banned - at least temporarily - from being shown in the West End of London.

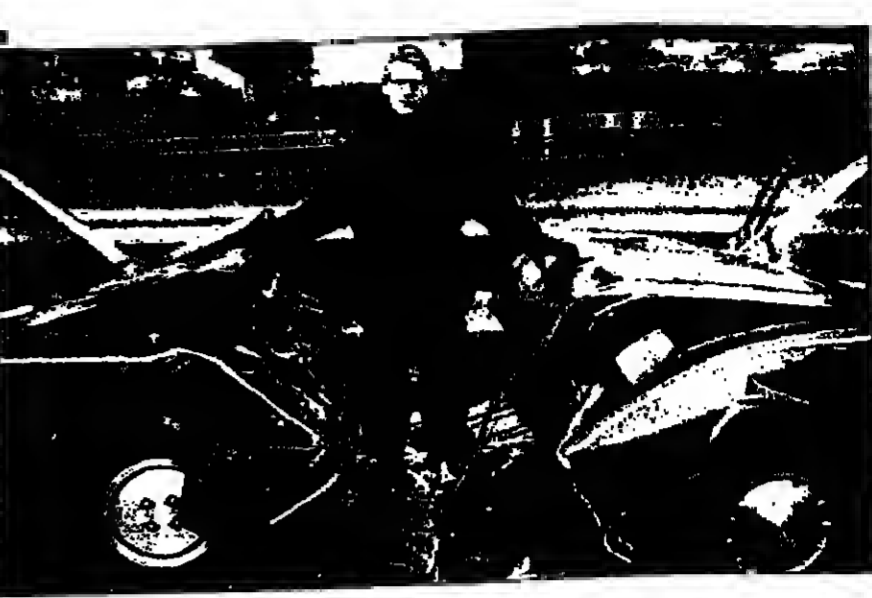
Westminster City Council's licensing sub-committee imposed an interim prohibition yesterday after watching the film, despite appeals from 50 leading film makers to allow it to be released.

In a statement, councillors said they had three serious concerns about the controversial film based on JG Ballard's novel which won the special jury prize at this year's Cannes Film Festival.

The first was "the sex scene involving a woman wearing callipers". The second, the final sex scene, involving a man who forces his wife's car off the road and then has sex with her after she is thrown from the car, and the third the statement by one of the characters, Vaughan, that "car crashes are fertilising and not destructive".

While not explicitly calling for the scenes to be cut, the councillors "would be reluctant for the film to be shown in Westminster in the form shown today". Their ruling is crucial because it puts the film out of bounds for many of the leading West End cinemas. The film is due to go on general release in Britain in January.

After viewing the film councillors' reactions were mixed.



Road rage: Scenes from Canadian director David Cronenberg's latest film, *Crash*, which has been banned from London's West End. Some critics have described the movie as 'depraved'.

Anne Barnes said she did not enjoy the film. "I am extremely worried about the impact it might have on 18- or 19-year-olds who think themselves very clever and tend to like fast cars."

But David Awary disagreed: "I would have thought it was allowable viewing for adults if they don't mind degradation and violence towards women and dogs."

The committee chairman, John Bull, said: "It's exceedingly well made, you can't take that away. But if you are asking me personally whether I enjoyed the film, I can be quite honest, I could live without it."

Their official conclusions are to be put to the British Board of Film Classification, which is to rule on the film later this year. As soon as it has, the committee will reconsider the prohibition but retain the right to continue the ban if the BBFC give it an 18 certificate in its present form.

Meanwhile, momentum is gathering for *Crash* to be shown to an increasingly eager public.

The film-makers Mike Leigh and Duncan Kenworthy say the film is a "work of art" which should be shown uncut.

After the meeting, the co-executive director of *Crash*, Chris Auty, said: "I think the key word here is 'interim'."

He added: "The matter now rests, as it should have done all the way through, with the BBFC."

"We are delighted that the council has taken that view and we continue our discussions with BBFC chairman James Ferman."

"All we really want is that our work of art, which is how we think of this film from the bottom of our hearts, gets the opportunity to be seen in an uncut form by the British public."

## DAILY POEM

### Coleridge goes scuba-diving

By Pauline Stainer

How it intoxicates -  
to have air for half an hour

the sea-bed  
a quilt of India stuff  
tasselled and fringed

a pillar of krill  
passing through me  
in corpa transparente

the flashing cipher  
of eels as they graze  
my wet suit

glass-fish  
with invisible viscera  
floaters in an eye

and even here  
that other implausible cargo -  
afterimage

the swallow  
supporting the sun  
on one wing

Pauline Stainer's *The Wound-dresser's Dream* (Bloodaxe) has been shortlisted for the 1996 Whitbread Poetry Award. She has been described as a poet "working at the margins of the sacred" in a verse that is both intellectual and sensory. Many of her poems are constructed on a bedrock of religious and liturgical allusions, but she draws too from the visual as well as the literary arts, and relishes an impressive familiarity with chemistry and optics.

## QUALITY U.K. MADE WAX JACKET ONLY £25+p&p

**CORD COLLAR**  
SEAMLESS SHOULDER FOR  
ADDED WATER SHED  
2 WAY FRONT ZIP  
STUDDED STORM FLAP  
HAND WARMER POCKETS  
DEEP FRONT POCKETS  
INTERNAL POCKETS  
KNOTTED CUFF  
& STORM CUFF

We sincerely believe  
we have found one of the  
best quality for money jackets made in  
the U.K., why pay more when you can  
take advantage of our low introductory price! Great traditional  
classic wear for the family with value in mind.

Sizes: S (38/38), M (40), L (42), XL (44), 2XL (46) unisex  
Material: Cotton waxed outer. Colours: Green, Navy  
Item Ref: 11210 Wax Jacket

**PRIVILEGE OFFER** Buy a Jacket from This Advert Only  
and order a pair of real Hunter "Wellies at the same time for  
a combined price of £58 Post Free. Remember the two items  
must be ordered together as a County Set for £58 Post-Free.  
Please abide by the spirit of the offer, refunds can only be made against the  
2 items bought as a set, on order and not by post.  
Size: 3 - 12 full size. Colour: Green. Item Ref: 11210 Hunters

**PHONE NOW ON 01768 899111**  
OR FAX 01768 899222 TO PLACE CREDIT CARD ORDER

SEND TO DEPT IN111 TOWN & COUNTRY MANNER LTD,  
PENRITH ESTATE, PENRITH, CUMBRIA CA11 9EQ

We hope to dispatch by return, otherwise you should have from us within 28 days,  
if not please contact us: REFUND OR REPLACEMENT IF NOT DELIGHTED.

Qty	Item Ref.	Size	Colour	Alt. Colour	£
Name: _____					plus £5.00
Address: _____					plus £2.00
					Over £75
					Total
Post Code: _____					
Signed: _____					
I enclose my cheque (P.O. for £) _____					
or charge my American Express Card No. _____					
If you are not interested in receiving information on approved services and products from third parties please tick _____					

## There's more to quality than meets the eye.

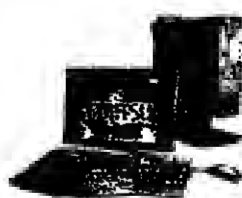
Quality can sometimes be difficult to quantify. With PCs, it's simple. The higher the quality, the lower the cost of ownership. Fujitsu ErgoPro PCs are designed to provide the highest levels of build quality and reliability, which means they are up and running faster and keep on running. But there are many other aspects of ErgoPro's focus on quality that help reduce costs.

Ergonomic keyboards, low emission monitors, low noise output and pin-sharp graphics are features that produce a more relaxed operating environment and hence improve end-user productivity. Comprehensive desk-top management facilities, pre-installed LAN software and plug-and-play connections make network control more effective and upgrading much easier.

High levels of security protection cause potential thieves to think twice and future-proof technology enables growth without system replacement.

It all adds up to superb investment protection. And at really keen prices. Check the ErgoPro range out for yourself, and do some comparisons. You could be in for a pleasant surprise.

For more information  
please phone FUJITSU ICL  
Computers on 0345 123 555



# FUJITSU

PCs • NOTEBOOKS • SERVERS  
<http://www.fujitsu-computers.com>

The Intel Inside logo and Pentium are trademarks of the Intel Corporation.

- 100MHz Pentium<sup>®</sup> Processor.
- 8Mb RAM. ■ 810Mb hard disk.
- 14" monitor.
- Eight speed multimedia.
- Stereo soundcard and speakers.

**24 TOP TITLES INCLUDING:**  
 ■ WINDOWS '95 ■ FIFA '96 ■ MS WORKS ■ MINI OFFICE WORKS  
 ■ NETWORK Q RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP ■ FUNSCHOOL 6 SERIES  
 ■ KLIK & PLAY ■ LANGUAGE LABS - FRENCH ■ 3D GARDEN DESIGNER  
 ■ SERIOUS SUMS 9-11YRS

**APRICOT**

**120 MHz Pentium Processor,**  
8MB RAM, 1.25Gb hard disk, Eight speed multimedia,  
2MB S.D. Graphics card, 28.8Kbps data, fax modem +  
£350 worth of software.\*  
Was £1599 now £1247.  
Local Assemblers: 0600 618 0100/0100

**NOTHING  
TO PAY  
UNTIL  
AUGUST '97**

**SAVE  
£100  
1996 Value  
£1499**

**PACKARD BELL**

133MHz Pentium Processor.  
10MB FPM 1 2GB Hard disk. Eight speed multimedia. 2x4x4bps  
wireless remote controlled communications card. Model  
selected price. **Over £1000 worth of software! Plus £200 worth**  
of Microsoft discount vouchers. **PLUS Free Starter Pack &**  
**Computer Desk** worth over £100.

**SAVE**  
**£100**  
1996 MSRP  
**£1799**  
FREE DELIVERY  
**£1699**

**NOTHING  
TO PAY  
UNTIL  
AUGUST '97**

**Packard Bell 133MHz Pentium PC**  
16MB RAM 1.2GB hard disk, 32-speed multimedia! Over £1000 worth of software! £200 worth of Microsoft discount vouchers.

**PLUS Canon Colour Inkjet Printer**  
7435C Office Laserjet monochrome 550 DSI  
24 pin parallel 12MB 12 pages per minute  
2400 x 600 resolution Price £254.99 incl VAT  
12 months warranty, 3 years parts, 1 year labour

**INC VAT**  
**£1699**  
**£1445.96 EX VAT**

**£700**  
WORTH OF PC WORLD  
DISCOUNT VOUCHERS  
WITH ALL PC & PRINTER  
PACKAGES



**FREE**

**HURRY!  
LIMITED  
OFFER**

**PRINTER**

**ON SELECTED PACKARD BELL PCs**



**EXCLUSIVE**

**HURRY! LIMITED OFFER**

**PACKARD BELL**

- 120MHz Pentium® Processor.
- 8Mb EDO RAM.
- 1Gb hard disk.
- Six speed multimedia.

**Over £1000 worth of software\***  
**£200 worth of Microsoft Discount Vouchers.** Was £1499 inc VAT.

MODEL: Packard Bell 9001s

**PLUS FREE \*HEWLETT PACKARD DESKJET 400C.**

**INC VAT**

**£1399**

**SAVE £100**

**FREE**

**HEWLETT PACKARD COLOUR INKJET PRINTER\***

**FREE £500!**

THE COMPUTER SUPERSTARS

TRAINING CENTRE

50000  
COMPUTER  
PROCESSING

100% (100%)

DO

**HEWLETT PACKARD**

Colour Inkjet Printer.  
600x600 DPI resolution (black), 600x300  
DPI (colour), up to  
3 pages per minute output.  
Model D7310.

**NEW**

Includes 101  
dot-matrix Print  
Studio software.

**INC VAT**  
**£299**  
~~£254.47 EX VAT~~

**EPSON**

**Canon Inkjet Printers.**  
720-360 DPI resolution  
monochrome, 360 DPI colour  
printing. Up to 3.4 pages per  
minute (black), 100 page sheet  
feeder.

**Model: BIC 240 Colour**

**NEW**  
**monochrome**  
**£199**  
A165 360 dpi

**Colour Inkjet Printers.**  
720 DPI resolution colour printing  
4 pages per minute output (black),  
2 pages per minute output (colour).  
"Photo-real printing capability".  
Versa-Print and VAF, Mac/PC, Windows 95  
Nothing to pay until August '97

**SAVE**  
**£30**  
Annual  
Saver  
**£259**  
240-4.3 ipm

**SAVE UP TO £500 ON PORTABLE PCs**

<b>TOSHIBA</b>	<b>OLIVETTI</b>
160MHz Pentium Processor, 2GB RAM, 10.4" Screen	160MHz Pentium Processor, 2GB RAM, 10.4" Screen

**166MHz Pentium Processor.**  
8MB EDO RAM, 810MB  
hard disk, 11.5" CRT.

**SAVE**

8MB EDO RAM, 810MB hard disk.  
11.5" TFT colour display.  
MS DOS 6.22, Windows for Work  
Groups 3.11 or Windows 95  
(dual installation).  
Was £2499 inc VAT.  
MODEL Smdlee 110 CT

**OVER**  
**£500**

**1929**  
£1419.00 net

**OVER 500 PERIPHERALS -  
TO GET THE MOST FROM YOUR PC**

**MODEM**  
Creative Labs Internet  
Modem.  
18,800bps data/fax modem  
with Internet access software.

**SAVE**  
**£30**  
FREE  
POST

**MEMORY**  
**16 MBYTE**  
**PRICE**

**OVER 1500 SOFTWARE TITLES  
NOW IN STOCK**

Nothing to pay  
until August 1997



**NAVIGATOR 2.0**  
 For browsing the  
 Worldwide Web.  
 Send and  
 receive E-mail

**GUIDE**  
 NEW EASY  
**24.99**  
 \$21.27 street

NOTHING WITH  
 more style and  
 challenges than  
 ours: including  
 two new planes  
 the Boeing 737  
 and a short plane

**NEW**  
 NEW EASY  
**39.99**  
 \$34.03 street

Pay no cash! Get no payments for nine months, then we'll bill you. Your bill will be charged from the date of the shipment. If you leave our unpaid order, we'll charge you.

**APR**

**PS-R-10**  
PRINTERS OVER £250

any new flatbed or A3 size  
new models OR 40 months payments (first value of £250) (flat  
rate monthly payment) £26.84 at up to 9.9% APR. Subject to credit.

**29.5%**

**WORLD**



**WIDEST RANGE**

- Immediate availability on over 5000 products
- Hands on demonstrations

**EXPERT ADVICE**

- Expert staff on hand seven days a week
- Dedicated business sales staff
- Technical Centre specialists for upgrades, configurations, installations

**AFTER SALES SUPPORT**

- PC and Software helpline
- Up to five years comprehensive insurance
- Next day on-site service

**ASK INSTANT FOR DETAILS**

**LOW**

**We won't be beaten**  
We promise that if you find the same offer available at a lower price in any other local retail store within 7 days of purchase we will refund the difference - guaranteed. providing you produce your receipt and details of where you saw the offer.

**FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE CALL 0990 464 464**

NORTH		SOUTH	
BRISTOL	BRISTOL	BRISTOL	BRISTOL
CARDIFF	CARDIFF	CARDIFF	CARDIFF
COLCHESTER	COLCHESTER	COLCHESTER	COLCHESTER
DERBY	DERBY	DERBY	DERBY
EDINBURGH	EDINBURGH	EDINBURGH	EDINBURGH
GATEHEAD	GATEHEAD	GATEHEAD	GATEHEAD
LIVERPOOL	LIVERPOOL	LIVERPOOL	LIVERPOOL
MANCHESTER	MANCHESTER	MANCHESTER	MANCHESTER
MIDSWAY	MIDSWAY	MIDSWAY	MIDSWAY
MIDWAY HILL-DUDLEY	MIDWAY HILL-DUDLEY	MIDWAY HILL-DUDLEY	MIDWAY HILL-DUDLEY
NORTHAMPTON	NORTHAMPTON	NORTHAMPTON	NORTHAMPTON
NORWICH	NORWICH	NORWICH	NORWICH
PORSMOUTH	PORSMOUTH	PORSMOUTH	PORSMOUTH
PLYMOUTH	PLYMOUTH	PLYMOUTH	PLYMOUTH
READING	READING	READING	READING
SLOUGH	SLOUGH	SLOUGH	SLOUGH
SOUTHAMPTON	SOUTHAMPTON	SOUTHAMPTON	SOUTHAMPTON
STAFFORD	STAFFORD	STAFFORD	STAFFORD
STOKE	STOKE	STOKE	STOKE

**OPEN  
7 DAYS A  
WEEK**

**Charles Arthur**  
Science Editor

Please send to: GOLDFISH, FREEPOST SEA 2044, No. 13-15 Moorland Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, TN38 9BB

## international

# Death on the Danube as mafia gangs fight for Budapest

Adrian Bridge  
Budapest

Mystery grenade attacks and mafia-style shootings threaten to shatter Budapest's image as one of the most civilised cities of Central Europe, replete with monuments to centuries of Habsburg rule. The upsurge in violence may even put paid to the country's booming tourist industry, which relies heavily on a growing number of wealthy visitors from Western countries, such as Britain.

The attacks began modestly just under a month ago with the blowing up of a Mercedes car belonging to the owner of a gambling club. Since then, they have spread to restaurants, car showrooms and the city's growing number of striptease clubs. At the same time there have been two shootings — one fatal — of people believed to belong

to Hungary's criminal underworld. Police put the violence down to "turf wars" between the many foreign and home-based mafia groups which are now jostling to control the Hungarian capital's sex and gambling rackets. And in an attempt to end their activities, the police have set up a 160-strong task force and offered a 1 million forint (about £4,700) reward for information leading to arrests.

"Crime syndicates fighting for territory are behind these hand-grenade bombings," said Laszlo Garamvölgyi, the police spokesman. "These are demonstrations of force by different criminal groups, both foreign and domestic."

The grenade attacks usually take place in the early hours of the morning and the explosions have caused extensive damage to windows, restaurants and cars. Hungarian



Bar wars: Mafia gangs are behind the violent fight over Hungary's sex and gambling rackets. Photograph: Popperfoto

media believe the grenades may have come from two crates that disappeared from a military unit late last year. Almost all the grenades used in the more than 30 explosions in Hungary this year have come from former Warsaw Pact stocks.

All Central and East European countries experienced a rapid growth in organised crime following the fall of Communism in 1989, and there is specu-

lation that the latest round of bombings was sparked off by a change of leadership in Budapest's large Russian mafia network, and their decision to "get tough" on rival gangs which hail from the Ukraine, Serbia and Bulgaria.

Warfare between the rival mafia gangs is believed to have begun behind the killing at the beginning of this month of Jozsef Piszta, an underworld

figure shot at point-blank range with a 9mm pistol while sitting in his car, and behind the serious wounding of Csaba Lakatos, a prominent Hungarian racehorse owner who last week was shot three times with a rifle at Budapest's race track.

Hungary's Prime Minister, Gyula Horn, is said to be personally monitoring the police investigation, while Budapest's mayor, Gabor Demszky, has

suggested a five-fold increase in spending on police. The prospect of civilians — and especially foreigners — getting caught up in the mafia crossfire is one that terrifies Hungary's tourist authorities. They recorded more than 30 million visitors to the country in the first three quarters of the year, many of them from Western countries, such as Britain and France.

## significant shorts

## Republicans vote to keep Gingrich

Putting aside their doubts, Congressional Republicans yesterday unanimously renominated Newt Gingrich for a second term as House Speaker, all but ensuring that he retains the job when a formal floor vote is held next January.

Earlier, some Republicans who blamed Mr Gingrich's unpopularity for the drop in their party's majority at the last election to under 20 seats, had privately sought an alternative. Now the only threat is an Ethics Committee report due to be issued at the turn of the year, which might contain damaging revelations about Mr Gingrich's financial dealings.

Rupert Cornwell — Washington

## Bosnia vows to repatriate war refugees

Bosnia pledged to repatriate more than 150,000 war refugees from Germany, nearly a year after the Dayton peace agreement stopped the fighting.

The pact, signed by ministers of both governments, adds weight to a decision by Germany's 16 states to start sending back refugees on 1 October. Germany took in the biggest number of Bosnian refugees outside former Yugoslavia but now politicians are worried about the costs.

AP — Bonn

## Tower inferno in Hong Kong

People leapt from windows or clung by their fingertips to air conditioning on exterior walls to escape a fire in a Hong Kong commercial high-rise building, and one fireman was killed battling the blaze. A dramatic rescue operation was launched by 160 Hong Kong firefighters to save scores of people trapped in the 16-floor building on the Nathan Road, in Kowloon. As many as 68 people were injured.

Reuters — Hong Kong

## Bombs found in Philippines

Two bombs were discovered at Manila's airport and at Subic Bay Freeport, where 18 Pacific Rim leaders will gather next Monday for an Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation summit, magnifying security concerns for the meeting.

One bomb was found in a bag in the arrival area of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, officials said. A bomb squad prepared to explode it outside the terminal. Another was found in the afternoon by a janitor in a crowded area near the main gate of Subic Bay Freeport, the former US naval base west of Manila. Security officials defused that bomb. AP — Manila

## UN goes on hold in Kabul

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said it was putting most of its activities in Kabul on hold "until the security situation improves", because of arrests and intimidation of its staff by the ruling Taliban militia.

Rupert Cornwell, a spokesman for the UNHCR, said that four of the 22 local staff in the UNHCR's main office in Kabul had been arrested, while seven Afghan women employees had been told to stay at home since the Islamic Taliban captured Kabul on 27 September.

Reuters — Islamabad

## Croatia closes radio station

Croatia's hardline government ordered the country's last independent radio station to close, on the grounds that the Zagreb-based Radio 101 was "not objective". The ministry of communication gave the station until the end of the month to cease operations.

The crackdown on the station, the only significant mouthpiece of Croatia's liberal and left-wing opposition, will confirm fears that Croatia's fragile democracy is succumbing, fast to the authoritarian tendencies of President Franjo Tudjman's nationalist HDZ party. The closure of Radio 101 will anger the Council of Europe, which recently endorsed Croatia's application only after Zagreb promised greater respect for human rights and the freedom of the media.

Marcus Tanner

## Man saved by spare tyre

A 300-pound (135kg) man found two miles off the US Atlantic coast was saved by his girth, doctors said.

Robert Slutsky, 54, was rescued on Monday morning. "Just as a whale or polar bear is shielded from the cold, this man's fat saved him from drowning or freezing to death," Dr Michael Bloch, of St John's Episcopal Hospital in Far Rockaway, New York state, said. Mr Slutsky remains in a critical condition. AP — New York

## The Independent & Nescafé Blend 37 Competition

Starts Saturday 23 November in The Independent Magazine

Your chance to win a laptop computer or a Waterman fountain pen

Not everyone who tries it will like it, but everyone who likes it will love it

NESCAFÉ BLEND 37

## PENTIUM 120 MULTIMEDIA PC UNDER £1000

### FREE SKY SATELLITE SYSTEM FULLY INSTALLED

WHEN YOU SPEND £299 OR MORE ON ONE OR MORE PRODUCTS

Simply subscribe to any Sky package, subject to conditions. See in-store for full details.

## MUST END SOON

### COMMODORE MULTIMEDIA PC

- Intel 120MHz Pentium processor
- 8Mb EDO RAM
- 256k cache RAM
- 1.2Gb hard disk drive
- 8 speed CD ROM drive
- 3D accelerator card with 2Mb Video RAM
- 16 bit WaveTable surround sound card
- Includes 25 watt speakers
- Includes Sega Gamepad and 3 Sega classic arcade games including Virtua Fighter

Model P120

### BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER

## £999.99 EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

INCLUDES 3 ARCADE GAMES

### FREE GAME WORTH UP TO £45

Choose any of these titles free when you buy the Commodore P120 with this voucher.

Normally £44.99 normally £29.99 normally £24.99 normally £24.99

PACKAGE OPTION: Buy the Olivetti P120 Inkjet Printer monthly £129.99

## ONLY £1099.99

BUY NOW PAY 9 MONTHS LATER

### NEW! NO CLAIM MONEY BACK 5-YEAR WARRANTY

You simply can't buy better protection than the new Five Star SuperCover Extended Warranty from Comet. For real peace of mind, a single premium payment guarantees five years' comprehensive cover against product breakdown, free multimedia helpline service and free cover for a PC upgrade by a Comet approved engineer. If, after five years, you've made no claim, you can get all your warranty money back in full.

# COMET

You can't buy better this Christmas

MOST STORES OPEN SUNDAY & UNTIL 8PM WEEKDAYS. RING FREE ON 0504 425 425 FOR DETAILS OF YOUR NEAREST MULTIMEDIA COMPUTER CENTRE

### CHOOSE FROM A WIDE RANGE OF PRINTERS IN STORE

#### HEWLETT PACKARD

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

## £159.99

FREE COLOUR KIT

#### EPSON

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

## £179.99

NEW

#### HEWLETT PACKARD

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

## £239.99

SAVE £60

#### EPSON

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

## £259.99

INCLUDES T-SHIRT PRINTING KIT

#### HEWLETT PACKARD

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

## £299.99

PHOTO QUALITY UPGRADEABLE

### LATEST RELEASES IN STORE NOW

#### FIFA 97

The latest edition to the top selling FIFA range includes all new 3D graphics, animation and motion sensing which allows total freedom of play and realistic playing styles. Plus commentary from John Motson, Ian Stanger and Andy Gray.

## £29.99

OUT TODAY

#### ENCARTA ENCYCLOPEDIA 97

Brings volumes of information to life through pictures, maps, sounds and animations.

## £44.99

NEW

### FREE MULTIMEDIA HELPLINE

In partnership with Softbank-PSG, Europe's leading computer help provider, we offer you a unique advice service which is available from the moment you purchase your PC or printer. Having made your purchase you are eligible to make use of the Comet Helpline (which is not a premium rate number) for up to 5 years and this includes any help or advice that you may need regarding accessories or software you subsequently buy from Comet.

### NEW COMET CHRISTMAS CATALOGUE IN-STORE NOW!

Packed with 450 of the best products available.

Press updated daily

Teletext Ch.4, p.425

### BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER ON TOP BRAND MULTIMEDIA PCs

#### MITAC MULTIMEDIA PC

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

## £1379.99

SAVE £120

#### COMPAQ/OLIVETTI PC/PRINTER PACKAGE

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

## £1449.99

SAVE £80

#### IBM MULTIMEDIA PC

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

## £1599.99

SAVE £100

#### AST MULTIMEDIA PC

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

## £1699.99

SAVE £100

#### OLIVETTI MULTIMEDIA PC

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

## £1699.99

SAVE £50

#### OLIVETTI MULTIMEDIA PC

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

## £1699.99

SAVE £50

### THE COMET PRICE

If you buy any product from Comet, then within 14 days find the same offer on sale locally at a lower price, we'll willingly refund the difference, PLUS 10% OF THAT DIFFERENCE.

MOST STORES OPEN SUNDAY & UNTIL 8PM WEEKDAYS. RING FREE ON 0504 425 425 FOR DETAILS OF YOUR NEAREST MULTIMEDIA COMPUTER CENTRE

# Vision of brutality leaves Israel in shock

Patrick Cockburn  
Jerusalem

It is the casual brutality with which David Ben Abu and Tzahi Shmaya, two young Israeli border police, kicked, punched and knelt in the groin six Palestinian workers, caught trying to enter Jerusalem illegally to work, which most struck Israeli television viewers. As with the amateur video of Los Angeles policemen taking turns to beat Rodney King, the black motorist, in 1992, the film has an impact precisely because the slow-moving violence is apparently inflicted without anger as part of official routine.

Mr Ben Abu and Mr Shmaya have been detained for questioning and are to stand trial. Denouncing the beatings, Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, said: "The acts of those policemen who hit the Palestinian labourers are immoral and criminal. They are not worthy of serving further in Israel's security forces, and the full force of the law will be brought down on them."

He claimed that the brutality contradicted the strict standards of conduct demanded of the Israeli armed forces.

Given the level of violence inflicted by Israel on the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza over the last 10 years, Mr Ben Abu and Mr Shmaya can count themselves unlucky to be singled out. Since the start of the intifada in 1987, the security forces have killed 1,251 Palestinians, including 262 children under the age of 16, according to the Israeli human rights organisation, B'Tselem.

Despite frequent Palestinian claims that soldiers fired without provocation, B'Tselem says only three soldiers have been convicted of manslaughter. At the weekend, a military court in Lod sentenced four soldiers, who shot dead an innocent man in a car to a fine of one *agora*, the smallest Israeli coin worth one-third of a penny.

Eitan Felner of B'Tselem



says the film has created such revulsion among Israelis because "Israeli society has a self-perception of its security forces as behaving according to the rule of law. The majority of Israelis do not want to believe what happens on the West Bank."

He says that the beatings, at A Ram entry point into Jerusalem filmed by the amateur Palestinian cameraman, the one *agora* fine for killing a Palestinian by the military court and the decision of the Israeli High Court to allow physical pressure amounting to torture - all of which have happened in less than a week - show "the dehumanisation of Palestinians which continues despite the peace process."

Mr Ben Abu, 18, a warrant officer who had served in the border police, a paramilitary organisation, for two-and-a-half years and Mr Shmaya, 19, who had been in the police for a year, appear to be ordinary enough security men. They claim that they beat the labourers because the incident took place on 10 October and they were still upset by the results of the fighting between Palestinians and Israelis on 25 September.

The most striking feature of the film, however, is the jocular sadism and lack of anger with which the police strike their victims, at one point one of them

if he believes he is in a life-threatening situation. The most common reason for soldiers to open fire in the past has been Palestinian youths throwing stones, but figures show that the actual threat to their lives is very limited. More than 1,000 Palestinians have been killed since 1987, but only three Israeli soldiers have died as a result of being hit by a stone during the same period.

The A Ram incident is the second time this year that film taken by an unseen amateur cameraman has embarrassed Israel. After 101 Lebanese refugees were killed by Israeli shells at Qana during Israel's bombardment of southern Lebanon in April, the army at first said it had no spotter planes in the area. Only when a video taken by a Norwegian UN soldier showed a drone overhead at the time of the attack did the army concede this was untrue.

sitting on a man's head as if to emphasise his subjugation.

The high Palestinian casualties in confrontations with Israeli security forces stem primarily from the liberal open-fire regulations in the Israeli army under which a soldier can shoot



Dividing line: Male and female supporters of the Islamic group, Hamas, march in Nablus yesterday in honour of killed Palestinians and the amateur video of Israeli soldiers, top left, attacking Palestinian workers Photograph: AP

**FIAT BRAVA. FIVE DOOR FAMILY HATCHBACK. VOTED CAR OF THE YEAR 1996.**

REASON ENOUGH?



FIAT EASIPLAN EXAMPLE

OFFER ENDS 30TH NOVEMBER

FIAT

CAN SHOWN FIAT BRAVA 1.6 AT 80000 ON THE ROAD. PRICE INCLUDES £527 FOR DELIVERY TO DEALER, NUMBER PLATE, VAT AND 6 MONTHS ROAD FUND LICENCE. PRICE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS 20/11/96. OFFER ENDS 30/11/96. CREDIT AVAILABLE TO ANYONE AGED 18 OR OVER. SUBJECT TO STATUS. A GUARANTEE MAY BE REQUIRED. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM FIAT MOTOR FINANCE, 3 PRINCESS WAY, REDHILL, SURREY RH1 1NE. FIAT MOTOR FINANCE IS A PART OF THE LOWLAND GROUP.

## Bitter end to Germany's Iran affair

Inre Karacs  
Bonn

Iran's best friend in the West was sweeping up the debris of its special relationship yesterday, wrecked by the sudden realisation that it has been cavorting all these years with a bunch of murderers.

After a three-day siege of its embassy in Tehran - denounced by a real-a-much as the "second best of spies" - Germany's Foreign Minister struggled to defend his controversial policy of "critical dialogue" with Iran. The clergy in Qom repaid the compliment by waving a *fatwa* at three German prosecutors who had dared to implicate the Iranian leadership in terrorism.

Breaking off diplomatic relations would be, in Mr Kinkel's words "a rash decision at the moment". Matters may not go that far just yet, but Bonn's self-proclaimed role as honest broker between Iran and the West seems moribund.

"This regime tramples on human rights, sweeps opposition parties it does not like out of the way and blames other people for its actions," the opposition Greens said in a statement. "How much more is the German government willing to take from this regime?"

The answer is probably not a lot. Prominent figures in the main governing party, the Christian Democrats, and the largest opposition party, the Social Democrats, have called on Mr Kinkel to abandon the relationship cultivated since "Big Satan" and "Little Satan" were thrown out of Tehran in 1979.

A rupture would cost money, a subject close to the German Foreign Ministry's heart. Germany is Iran's largest foreign trade partner, swapping goods worth \$1.4bn dollars (£850m) last year, with billions more in the order books.

But this cosy affair has been soured by the diligence of a Berlin court investigating the murder of four Kurdish dissidents in the city four years ago. The victims, three leaders of the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran (DKP-I) and their interpreter, died in a hail of bullets as two masked men burst into Berlin's Mykonos restau-

rant in September 1992 and sprayed the tables with machine guns.

One Iranian, Kazem Darabi, believed to be working for the Iranian secret service, and four Lebanese are standing trial for murder, but witnesses have convinced the judges the real perpetrators of the operation were in Tehran. Abolhassan Banisadr, the former Iranian president now living in exile in France, told the court that "the plan for killing the Kurds in the Mykonos restaurant was approved by the President and the religious leader of Iran around three months before the assassination".

That statement in effect put President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in the dock, triggering the first rumblings of protest in Tehran, but worse was to follow. Last Friday, one of the Berlin prosecutors compounded the insult by publicly voicing his conclusions:

"There is not the slightest doubt that the attack was decided, planned and prepared by the Islamic Republic of Iran and its leaders." Bruno Jost told the court. "The brazen attempts by the Tehran government to influence the proceedings point up this having happened on Iran's orders," he added, praising the court for "opening the door a bit to the headquarters of Iranian state terrorism and casting a look at the killing machine."

Mr Jost, as everyone now knows in Iran, is in the pay of "Zionists", and yesterday the ayatollahs in Qom likened his activities to Salman Rushdie's "crimes". Incensed by the slur against their leaders, thousands of Iranian students had taken to the streets spontaneously, brandishing placards castigating "Fascist Germany" and throwing eggs at the embassy.

Some 200 members of the Iranian parliament, the Majlis, called for a revision of ties with Germany, and the authorities in Tehran threatened to "document" German supplies of chemical weapons to Iraq during the first Gulf War.

Mr Kinkel maintains this war of words will abate, and his policies will bear fruit. But so far he has nothing but Deutschmarks to show for his efforts.

international

# Rebuff mars Yeltsin's return as fighting man

Phil Reeves  
Moscow

Boris Yeltsin yesterday took a crucial step in his long-awaited comeback by appearing on Russian television, but his cautious return to the political fray was marred by a rebuff from his troublesome neighbour - the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko.

In the 15 days since his coronary bypass operation, the Kremlin has released several still photographs of Mr Yeltsin, but his television performance provided Russians with their first close look at the patient and, far more importantly, a chance to hear him speak.

Enveloped in a large black coat and a fur hat, he looked considerably thinner and older than the burly figure who fought this summer's election campaign, but he spoke with few of the slurs or pauses that punctuated his speech just before the operation. He was also smiling and slightly ruddy-faced.

His heart - the source of so much political uncertainty and personal discomfort - felt quite

different, he said, standing next to his wife and granddaughter in the grounds of the Central Clinical Hospital in Moscow, where doctors yesterday removed the stitches from his chest.

"Today I have no pain in the

"Today I have no pain in the heart. It is not like it was before the operation"

heart. I don't feel my heart. It is not like it was before the operation." He was, he added, in "fighting mood".

He will need to be. His groaning in-tray has been piled still taller with the crisis bubbling away in Belarus, on his western border. Russia is by far the most influential player in international efforts to persuade Mr Lukashenko to end his stand-off

with parliament over a referendum on the constitution which - if passed next Sunday - would give him autocratic powers.

In a 40-minute telephone conversation yesterday, Mr Yeltsin urged Mr Lukashenko to compromise, but without much evident success. The 42-year-old former Soviet collective farm director failed to attend a Kremlin-organised meeting with his opponents and the heads of Russia's two parliamentary chambers, convened in the hope of finding a settlement.

However, he is expected to meet Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian prime minister, later this week.

Yesterday, as tensions remained high in the 10 million-strong nation, both sides were deadlocked.

Mr Lukashenko - who has the support of a 1,500-member presidential guard - was pressing ahead with the referendum, despite reports from Minsk last Tuesday that he was willing to reach a compromise. In what has become an elaborate game of brinkmanship, his



Back to the fray: Boris Yeltsin with his wife, Naina, and granddaughter in the grounds of the Central Clinical Hospital yesterday when he appeared on television to speak to the Russian people for the first time since his operation on 5 November

camp indicated that he would not call off the poll unless his parliamentary opponents stop moves to impeach him.

But the opposition, led by the parliamentary speaker, Semyon Sharstsky, appears unwilling to do so unless he first scraps the referendum, reinstates the recently sacked head of the country's election commission and opens up the now govern-

ment-controlled airwaves to parliamentarians.

All this has the potential to turn nasty, not least because of an intriguing detail: if the constitutional court decides that

there are grounds for impeaching Mr Lukashenko, the law states that his powers would be suspended until parliament decides his fate. Whether he would accept this is doubtful. His 28

months in office have provided little evidence that the constitution matters a jot to him. That - his supporters would say - is why he wants a new one.

Leading article, page 19

**THINK THE LINK!**

WHAT'S THE CHEAPEST WAY TO COMMUNICATE?

**UP TO £50 CHEQUEBACK\***  
ON ALL CELLNET DIGITAL MOBILE PHONES

**PLUS FREE LINE RENTAL FOR 2 MONTHS ON SELECTED MOBILES\*\***

**Nokia 1610**

- Up to 210 minutes talktime/100 hours standby
- 100 name and number memory
- Dedicated VoiceMail key
- Call timer
- Large 4 line LCD display
- Permanent signal strength/battery level indicators

**£9.99\***

**FREE LINE RENTAL FOR 2 MONTHS\*\***

**Mitsubishi MT11**

- Up to 80 minutes talktime/20 hours standby
- 99 name and number memory
- Send and receive short text messages
- Last 10 number redial

**£9.99\***

**Philips FIZZ**

- Up to 75 minutes talktime/45 hours standby
- 99 name and number memory
- Send and receive short text messages

**£9.99\***

**Motorola D460**

Up to 200 minutes talktime/100 hours standby

**£9.99\***

**NEC GS**

Up to 120 minutes talktime/24 hours standby

**£9.99\***

**Ericsson GA318**

Up to 230 minutes talktime/107 hours standby

**£19.99\***

**Nokia 2110**

Up to 70 minutes talktime/20 hours standby

**£79.99\***

**The Link**

**The benefits of Cellnet digital**

- Digital technology gives you call clarity and privacy
- Per-second billing
- Low cost tariffs and local call saver option
- Use outside the UK

Ask in-store for details of the Cellnet Digital network

**FREEPHONE 0500 222 666**

FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE AND TO ORDER DIRECT

**FREE BT PHONE CALLS WITH EVERY PURCHASE**

Save on your next BT phone bill with a minimum of 200 BT minutes with all mobile phone purchases\*

**You'll make a far better choice at The Link this Christmas!**

With 68 stores nationwide, you'll discover a huge range of mobile phones and advanced communication products - it's the biggest choice in the High Street.

Our friendly, helpful staff will help you make the right purchase to suit your needs and your pocket.

With fantastic offers every week, why go anywhere else?

**FREE CHOICE GUARANTEE**

Comprehensive insurance available offering cover for everything from accidental damage to theft and call cloning. Ask in-store for details.

**MONEY BACK GUARANTEE**

If you are not completely satisfied, return your purchase for a refund within 14 days for mobile phones, 7 days for all other products.

## Britain tries for special relationship with Russia

Christopher Bellamy  
Moscow

Britain yesterday offered Russia a "special relationship of an unprecedented nature" with the West.

The "civilised nations of the world" should join together to fight extremism, greed and intolerance elsewhere in the world and the spread of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, Michael Portillo, the Secretary of State for Defence, said in Moscow.

Russian officers should be posted to Nato headquarters and witness the planning of Nato operations at every level to overcome Russian fears about Nato expansion.

But yesterday, many of his Russian military audience and the Russian Foreign Ministry - who are the people who really count - remained sceptical.

Mr Portillo was on a two-day visit to Russia in which he met his Russian opposite number, General Igor Rodionov, President Yeltsin's Chief of Staff, Anatoly Chubais, and Russia's Foreign Minister, Yevgeny Primakov.

Mr Primakov, a long-standing opponent of Nato enlargement, was very specific about areas where Nato and Russia might overcome their differences, but one of them was an insistence that both sides agree a non-aggression pact.

The Nato leadership in Brussels is most reluctant to sign a non-aggression pact certainly by that name, partly because they do not have an illustrious history and partly because that would imply there had been earlier aggressive intentions.

On Tuesday, General Rodionov said he had been convinced that Nato was not aggressive or a threat to Russia, but that he had millions of people to convince.

Yesterday, Mr Portillo met some of them - 300 senior officers, students and staff at the General Staff Academy, the octagonal, spacecraft-like building on the edge of Moscow, which trains the elite of the Russian armed forces, plus officers from former Soviet states and their allies, for top jobs.

He got an unexpectedly rough ride. One asked why, if Nato was now keeping the peace in Bosnia, it could not help Russia in its peace-keeping operations in the Commonwealth of Independent States - Russia's "near abroad".

Mr Portillo appeared to misunderstand, thinking he was referring to the internal affairs of Russia itself.

An admiral, unaccustomed to civilian defence ministers, asked what qualifications Mr Portillo had to lecture them on military matters.

Mr Portillo outlined the dan-

gers in a new and in some ways more chaotic world. He said that 20 countries now possess ballistic missiles and that some European countries, including Russia, which he stressed would be part of any European security system, already lie within range of ballistic missiles fired by Third World countries.

Were North Korea to export its more advanced systems, other nations could be at risk, a point probably not lost on three North Korean officers in dark green uniforms sitting in the audience.

At least a dozen countries have the ability to deploy chem-



Yevgeny Primakov: Insists on non-aggression pact

ical or biological weapons, or have development programmes.

"We cannot abolish extremism, greed and intolerance. But we, the civilised nations of the world, can deter them. We must stop them winning," he said.

"I hope that Russia will play its full part in this," Mr Portillo said. "Nato and Russia can and must develop a real security partnership, founded on substance."

"We do not expect Russia to co-operate with Nato on the same terms as smaller nations. We offer Russia a special relationship of an unprecedented nature."

Mr Portillo said co-operation between Russia and Nato in Bosnia pointed the way to future co-operation. If Russia wanted to know what Nato was up to, it should send more people to Nato to find out.

"If Russia wants to know how Nato is approaching planning for its new missions, please extend Russian representation to levels below the high political level at Brussels - to the military commands that will be planning for operations by Nato's combined joint task forces."

"If a charter can help, let us have one. But let it not be devoted to sterile repetition of mutual undertakings which derive from the fears of a bygone age. Let us move on."

## Fear Zair 'Ho'

David Orr

The Zairian government has announced that it will be withdrawing its troops from the Congo.

As the Zairian government has announced that it will be withdrawing its troops from the Congo, the Zairian government has announced that it will be withdrawing its troops from the Congo.

The Zairian government has announced that it will be withdrawing its troops from the Congo, the Zairian government has announced that it will be withdrawing its troops from the Congo.

Mr Portillo said co-operation between Russia and Nato in Bosnia pointed the way to future co-operation. If Russia wanted to know what Nato was up to, it should send more people to Nato to find out.

"If Russia wants to know how Nato is approaching planning for its new missions, please extend Russian representation to levels below the high political level at Brussels - to the military commands that will be planning for operations by Nato's combined joint task forces."

"If a charter can help, let us have one. But let it not be devoted to sterile repetition of mutual undertakings which derive from the fears of a bygone age. Let us move on."

Mr Portillo outlined the dan-

# US seeks warmer ties with Peking

Teresa Poole  
Peking

The United States yesterday moved to build a new partnership with China, avoiding inflammatory confrontations over human rights in favour of a relationship which could address the issues which divided the two nations.

In his first significant foreign policy statement since re-election, President Clinton said he wanted "to sustain an engagement with China".

Washington views relations with Peking as its most important challenge as the two countries approach the next century. Speaking to the Australian parliament, Mr Clinton said: "The direction China

relationship, China was still playing hardball on key issues of disagreement.

Mr Qian attacked the US's "unstable" arms sales to the island state of Taiwan, "the core issue of Sino-American relations". US officials later said sales of defensive armaments to Taiwan would continue.

Comments on the vexed questions of China's human rights record illustrated the gulf between Washington and Peking's presentation of the day's diplomacy. Mr Christopher yesterday said he had raised human rights and the recent harsh sentences on dissidents in his meeting.

"It was, I think, probably the most coming-to-grips discussion that we've had of human rights issues for some time, maybe the most of all," Mr Christopher said. China had "very definitely engaged with us" on the issue, he added.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, Cui Tiankai, replied that Peking was opposed to the use of human rights as an "excuse" to interfere with China's internal affairs.

"Anybody who has a good true genuine understanding of China would conclude that the human rights situation is now the best of all time in China," he said. This was because in "the old days there were some other countries that took part in massive violations" in China.

On Hong Kong, Mr Christopher said the world would be watching when sovereignty was transferred to China next July. Mr Cui countered: "The return of Hong Kong to China will mark the real beginning of human rights being enjoyed by the people of Hong Kong." No other country will have the right to "poke its nose" into Hong Kong's affairs after 1 July next year.

Mr Christopher spoke of "interests we can best advance by working together", and dwelt at length on discussions relating to the non-proliferation of nuclear and conventional arms technology. The US would consider some form of peaceful nuclear co-operation with China even before the 1985 accord was fully implemented.

This might be the reward for China if it stops selling nuclear technology to Iran including, according to US sources, a uranium conversion facility. China is eager to buy nuclear power reactors from American firms.

**"Taiwan still remains the core issue of relations between the US and China"**

takes in the years to come, the way they define its greatness in the future, will help to decide whether the next century is one of conflict or co-operation."

He stressed the US had no interest in containing China. "That is a negative strategy," he said, while confirming America would maintain 100,000 troops across the Pacific.

This Sunday, at a regional economic forum in Manila, Mr Clinton will meet for the fourth time with his Chinese counterpart, Jiang Zemin. They may discuss a possible exchange of state visits next year which would symbolise a new phase in Sino-US relations.

In Peking, the US Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, yesterday emphasised the strategic importance of the relationship and the scope for building on the "positive momentum" of recent improvements in ties. However, his talks with Mr Jiang, the prime minister, Li Peng, and the foreign minister, Qian Qichen, failed to yield any public sign of softening on the Chinese side.

While Mr Christopher concentrated on the potential rewards to Peking of a more sta-

## Fears grow for Zaire's hidden 'Holocaust'

David Orr  
Kigali

They have been called the "missing masses" and their fate has been described as a "hidden holocaust".

As fighting erupted in eastern Zaire last month, aid agencies reported that hundreds of thousands of Rwandan refugees had been driven deep into the country's interior, beyond the reach of help.

The agencies warned that their numbers would be decimated by hunger, thirst and disease if an emergency relief operation could not be launched with all possible speed.

More than a month after the start of the conflict between the Zairean army and eastern Zairean rebels, no real evidence has emerged of the predicted humanitarian disaster.

Most of the Rwandan refugees who started to stream home from Zaire last Friday were in good physical condition. So keen were they to return to their neighbourhoods that few collected rations or field packs from United Nations agencies.

However, the number of uprooted people still stranded in Zaire's interior is being fiercely disputed.

Even though official estimates have been revised since the mass exodus of refugees last weekend, the UN says 600 to 700,000 Rwandan refugees are still unaccounted for inside Zaire.

The Rwandan government on the other hand claims that very few vulnerable groups still

remain in eastern Zaire. "Most of the refugees who are based in Zaire have returned home", said Rwanda's vice-president Paul Kagame in the Rwandan capital Kigali yesterday.

The UNHCR, the United Nations' refugee agency, says that at least half a million Rwandan refugees crossed the border last weekend and that more than half a million still have to emerge from the hills and forests of Zaire.

That there is no hard evidence that these people are dying, says UNHCR, should not be an excuse for complacency.

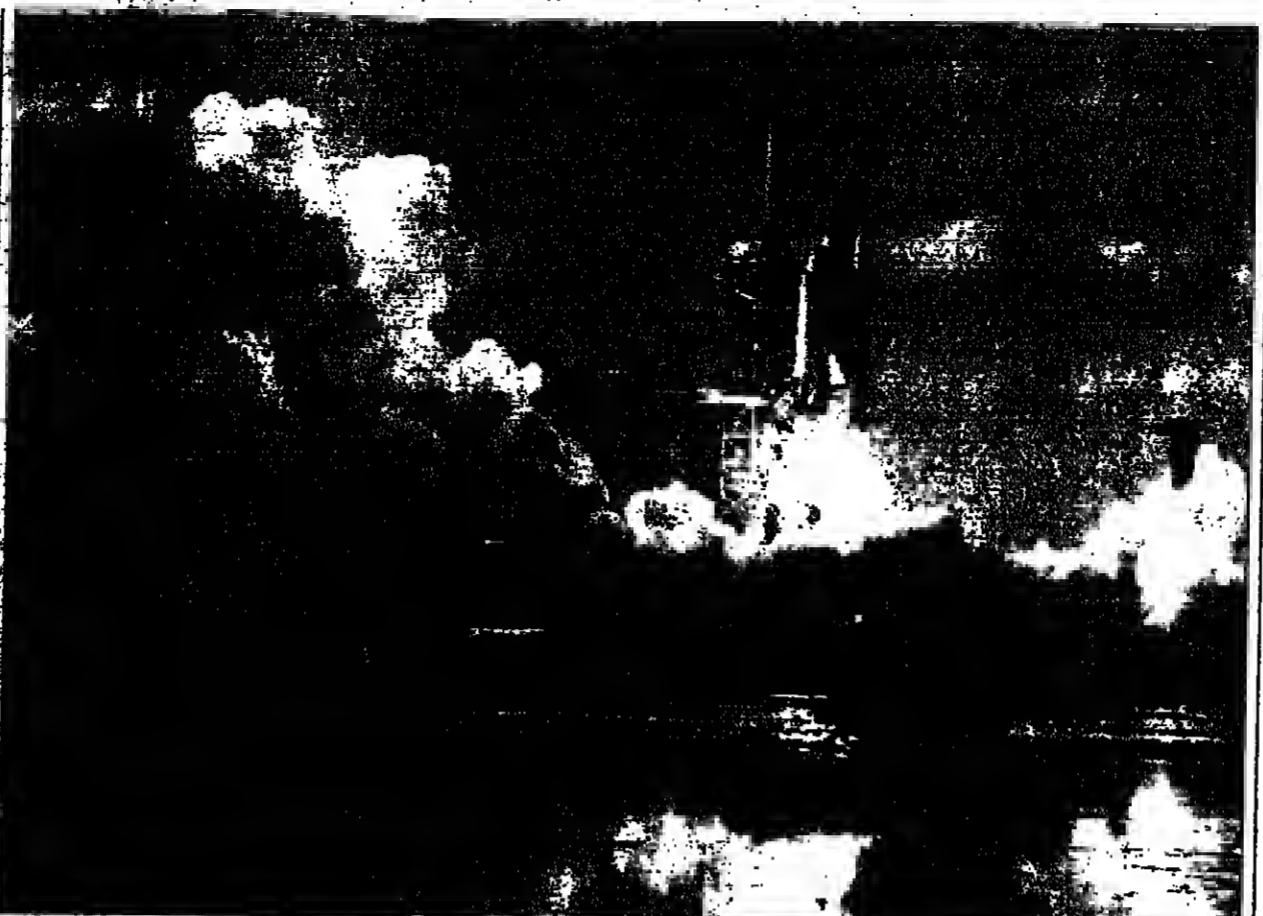
"Some people have been away from food and water for more than a month," UNHCR spokesman Paul Stromberg told *The Independent* yesterday.

"Added together, the lack of food, shelter and medical care will combine to cause real problems. Their condition is probably becoming more desperate."

With plans for the deployment of an international force in Zaire beginning to falter, the Rwandan government continues to make clear its distaste for foreign intervention.

Yesterday, Mr Kagame, who is also defence minister, said that since last weekend there is no longer any need for thousands of troops to protect the distribution of relief supplies in eastern Zaire.

Rwanda has long been opposed to foreign intervention. The proposed international mission has been mandated to ensure food reaches the needy and that exiled Rwandans can return home.



Double take: A great blue heron flies by as Space Shuttle Columbia, whose crew includes Story Musgrave, at 61 the oldest man in space, blasted off yesterday on a mission to examine the stars. Photograph: Paul Kizzie/AP

## Student denies baby killing

Delaware (AP) - A college student accused of murdering his girlfriend's baby after helping to deliver it, will surrender and deny the charge, his lawyer said yesterday.

Brian Peterson is charged with murder along with 18-year-old Amy Grossberg, the baby's mother.

The baby was put in a plastic bag and dumped in a rubbish bin outside a hotel last week.

Joseph Hurley said Peterson's family had considered sending the 18-year-old abroad to avoid prosecution, but he had talked them out of it.

The lawyer described Peterson, a student at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania, as "a combination of dazed and extremely fearful" since prosecutors said they would charge him and seek the death penalty. He said Peterson would surrender today and plead innocent to a first-degree murder charge, so that the family would not be charged with har-

bouring a fugitive. Hurley said on ABC's *Good Morning America* that the mother had considered fleeing with her son.

When a mother hears her son is facing the death penalty, he said, "one of the immediate thoughts is, 'I'm getting them out of here'."

Grossberg, of New Jersey, was arrested Monday and was being held without bail. Both she and Peterson could be sentenced to death if convicted.

Peterson and Grossberg "never went into that motel with the idea, 'We are going to kill a child,'" Hurley said.

On 12 November, the police authorities say, Peterson had driven three hours from Pennsylvania to Newark to pick up Grossberg at the University of Delaware. They checked into a motel, where Peterson helped deliver the baby boy and put him in the rubbish bin.

Police believe Peterson is the baby's father but want to compare his blood to the baby's to make sure.

**FIAT BRAVA. FIVE DOOR FAMILY HATCHBACK.**  
**£99 A MONTH. APR 5.6%.**  
PLUS DEPOSIT AND FINAL PAYMENT.

REASON ENOUGH!



FIAT EASIPLAN EXAMPLE



OFFER ENDS 30TH NOVEMBER

CAR SHOWN NOT AVAILABLE AT ALL DEALERS. ON THE ROAD PRICE INCLUDES £27 FOR DELIVERY TO DEALER, NUMBER PLATE, VMT AND 6 MONTHS ROAD FUND LICENCE. PRICE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS 30.11.96. CREDIT AVAILABLE TO ANYONE AGED 18 OR OVER. SUBJECT TO CREDIT CHECK. A GUARANTEE MAY BE REQUIRED. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM FIAT MOTOR FINANCE. 3 PRINCIPAL BANKS: WATKINS, SUNRISE, RAB. FIAT MOTOR FINANCE IS A PART OF THE LOMBARD GROUP.



ESTATE CARS ARE  
IT APPEARS OUR DESIGNERS



# THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE BULKY AND BORING. WE'VE SOME EXPLAINING TO DO.

THE MAJORITY of estate cars, it has to be said, tend to look as if they were designed as a bit of an afterthought.

A great big box stuck on the back of the saloon counterpart. Not so the new Vectra Estate.

You see our designers, perfectionists that they are, set about creating a car with all the practicalities of an estate with none of the 'ugliness.' Or as they put it 'a beautiful continuous flow from the bonnet through to the rounded rear.' And a design that 'embodied all the elements of the Vectra saloon but added an element of functionality and flair that is uniquely its own.' (They do tend to go on a bit these designers.)

But in this case we'll forgive them. After all, they have produced an exceptional car that combines genuine driving pleasure with an appeal that goes far beyond the versatility of load area. Oh dear, they've got us at it now.

If you'd like to take the new Vectra Estate for a test drive, and we rather suspect you would, call 0800 455 466 for details of your nearest Vauxhall Dealer.

THE NEW VECTRA ESTATE FROM VAUXHALL 



150 من المال

# A sick Russia is dangerous for us all

Four months after Boris Yeltsin's re-election, Russia presents a disturbing picture of political paralysis, economic mismanagement and increasing social disorder and violence. The fresh boost to the reform process that Mr Yeltsin's decisive election victory was supposed to provide has yet to materialise. In fact, on a range of fronts, from the chaotic condition of the armed forces to millions of unpaid workers, matters have almost certainly grown worse.

The problems began with the president's prolonged absence from his desk, which culminated two weeks ago in a quintuple heart bypass operation. It no doubt came as a relief to western governments to learn yesterday that Mr Yeltsin, in his first interview since the operation, had declared himself "fitting fit" and ready to resume work after a spell in his favourite sanatorium. Yet even those who most fervently welcomed Mr Yeltsin's victory in July over his Communist challenger, Gennady Zyuganov, must wonder how badly the president's illness has disrupted the course of Russian reform.

Under Russia's constitution, tailored-made for Mr Yeltsin after he crushed an armed uprising in Moscow in October 1993, power is concentrated to an extraordinary degree in the president's hands. If he is incapacitated, his subordinates are inevitably tempted to

intrigue against each other. The consequences for efficient government are predictably debilitating.

Before his re-election, Mr Yeltsin aggravated this inherent weakness of his presidential system by bringing the ambitious Alexander Lebed into his administration. A torrid struggle quickly ensued between the retired general and a faction led by the president's chief of staff, Anatoly Chubais. It took almost four months for Mr Chubais to drum General Lebed out of office, a time that should have been devoted to pressing issues such as tax reform and purging Russian business life of corruption and crime.

Yet no sooner had Mr Chubais dealt with General Lebed than he injected a quite unnecessary controversy into Russian politics by appointing Boris Berezovsky, a financial and media tycoon who bankrolled Mr Yeltsin's re-election campaign, as deputy secretary of the influential Security Council. Mr Berezovsky had no obvious qualifications for this sensitive position. All that Mr Chubais achieved was to reinforce the Russian parliament's determination to obstruct the Yeltsin administration's policies, and to confirm the impression among the Russian public that government under Mr Yeltsin equals government by cabal.

While Mr Chubais schemed and Mr Yeltsin prepared to go under the surgeon's knife, problems for the

Russian economy were rapidly mounting. It had been known since January that Russia would plunge into a budgetary crisis later in the year unless the government took decisive action against corporate tax evasion. Some of Russia's largest, newly privatised companies contribute only trivial amounts of tax revenue to the state, and this is one reason for the delays, sometimes lasting several months, that millions of public-sector workers (not to mention soldiers) endure before they receive their wages.

Yet it was not until last month that the administration set up an emergency tax commission to tackle the problem. The commission, which unfortunately bears the same initials in Russian as Lenin's infamous Cheka political police, is already said to be cracking down hard on tax-dodgers. Yet the measure came too late for the International Monetary Fund, which was compelled to suspend the latest \$340m (£205m) tranche of its three-year, \$10.2bn loan for Russia on the grounds that the government was breaking the terms of the agreement signed last February. The loan is vital to Russia's market reforms because, if properly used, it will guarantee medium-term economic stability,

facilitate Russian access to world capital markets and encourage foreign investment. No doubt the IMF will eventually release the money. Yet it is a measure of the confusion inside Mr Yeltsin's administration that his hand-picked officials allowed the crisis to blow up in the first place.

The same criticism applies to the administration's treatment of military reform. Both General Lebed and Igor Rodionov, the man whom he selected as defence minister, have warned that the armed forces are on the brink of a catastrophe unless emergency measures are taken. For the moment, this means mainly payment of overdue wages and restoration of discipline in disintegrating units where soldiers either fail to report for service or steal weapons for sale on the black market.

The problems may soon go much deeper. According to a recent CIA report, the control of the government and military leadership over Russia's thousands of nuclear weapons is weakening. Add to this such startling events as the crash last weekend of Russia's \$300m Mars probe, and the killing of 68 people in an explosion at a military base in the southern republic of Dagestan, and the impression of chaos in Russia grows stronger.

Far from hailing Mr Yeltsin's apparent return to health as a sign that all will soon be well, the West should understand that matters could easily get

worse before they improve. Yet in certain fields, such as modernising tax administration and strengthening control over nuclear weapons, the West can and should offer quick and practical help. True, the West will never have more than a limited influence over events in Russia. But that is no excuse for turning into passive spectators of disorder, or for behaving like naïve cheer-leaders of poorly executed reform. We, and our political leaders, should worry about Russia.



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 5DL  
TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435 / 0171-345 2435

## The family that never went away

Divorce accelerates. So does the number of children brought up by lone mothers. The world bewails the collapse of moral standards. Then one of the most reliable annual surveys - the British Social Attitudes survey - finds that our sense of family is still intensely strong. Who do we turn to? Parents, uncles, aunts. Who do we care for? Siblings, children, grandparents. Does this surprise anyone? Of course, families come in many forms, some tight as a prison cell, some anachronically extended. But all of us, to some extent, live in them and through them. Funny, isn't it, when surveys tell you what you already know, but weren't supposed to think?

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Public must decide how to pay for NHS

Sir: The letter from Dr Brighouse (18 November) about the rationing now widespread in the NHS and the supposed development of a two-tier system to the disadvantage of patients of non-fundholding GPs does not address the true problem.

In common with a large number of neighbouring fundholding practices we have had to instruct our local hospitals to stop all non-urgent admissions. The reason is clear from the following figures, comparing the number of procedures purchased by our practice of 11,000 patients last financial year and in the first six months of this year.

In-patient procedures	
Carried out, 1995-96	180
In budget, 1996-97	251
Carried out, April-Sept 1996	141
Day-case procedures	
Carried out, 1995-96	342
In budget, 1996-97	401
Carried out, April-Sept 1996	379

The problem is that the drive to efficiency which the internal market aims to achieve has happened. The hospitals can now process more patients than ever before. Unfortunately there is no money available to pay for all this additional work.

There are only two possible solutions: for the Government, any government, to find realistic additional money to allow the hospitals to operate at maximum capacity and reduce waiting lists; or for hospitals to temporarily downsize, or even, heaven forbid, reduce the number of hospitals to fit in with required and affordable capacity.

I see no evidence either locally or nationally of a proper costed debate which allows those most affected, the general public, to decide which of these alternative paths they wish to choose and to pay for.

Dr JOHN GRACE  
Higham,  
Kent

### New victims of Nigerian 'justice'

Sir: Last year I attended the Ogoni trials as an observer on behalf of the Bar Human Rights Committee and the Law Society. Subsequently Article 19 published my detailed analyses of the flagrant injustice of the trials, the paucity of the prosecution evidence and the breathtaking dishonesty of the judgments.

I was therefore both intrigued and perturbed to read the articles you published in which Richard North ("Can you be sure of Ken Saro-Wiwa?", 8 November) and Donu Kogbara ("Ken Saro-Wiwa was never a saint", 12 November) insinuated that Saro-Wiwa was guilty.

Sir, these articles challenge two questions. First, what reliable evidence do North and Kogbara have? There was never any impartial investigation by the Nigerian authorities of the circumstances of the killings of the four Ogoni chiefs. There was never any fair or proper trial. No right of appeal was allowed.

The two men who were to have been the principal witnesses against Saro-Wiwa alleged that they and most of the other witnesses for the prosecution had



been bribed to give false evidence. This was never investigated. Furthermore the continuing military occupation of Ogoniland and widespread corruption make it very difficult to be sure that anyone claiming to be a witness for either side is truthful.

Secondly, why the emphasis on Saro-Wiwa? What about the eight other defendants executed along with him? North and Kogbara make the same error that they attribute to the supporters of Saro-Wiwa. Eulogy or criticism of just one famous man is beside the point: nine people were brutally executed after an unfair trial at which no one ought to have been convicted.

Finally, both articles, in concentrating on one charismatic figure, ignore a matter of much greater current concern. There are 19 other Ogonis who have been in custody for well over a year. They face trial by the same tribunal which unjustly convicted the nine already executed, on the same charges and on the same evidence. None of them is a famous writer and environmentalist. All are in peril of their lives.

MICHAEL BIRNBAUM QC  
London WC2

### Tax turn-up

Sir: So the Tories have started their scare stories about Labour putting taxes up. In 1992 they said if I voted Labour my taxes would go up, and it was true. I voted Labour, and since then my taxes have gone up 22 times.

PAUL RICHARDS  
Labour's prospective parliamentary candidate for Billericay  
London W6

### Why crime fell in New York

Sir: Your piece about crime in New York ("City Father v the Godfathers", 19 November) perpetuates several myths about my former home.

First, its fall in crime in general and homicide in particular is not the personal handiwork of Mayor Giuliani. William Bratton was sacked as Giuliani's Police Commissioner because he gained too much credit for the zero tolerance of "quality of life" offences. Bratton had already used this approach with great success as head of the subway police in New York, and in Boston. But US and British criminologists do not accept either man's claim that this fully accounts for the fall in New York homicides.

New York's experience is not unique. In fact, some 125 American cities have seen dramatic falls in homicide. Several others, such as Minneapolis, have seen an increase. Policing styles vary widely.

Nor was New York the most dangerous place in America. For years it has languished well behind many other cities such as Houston, Detroit and Chicago.

What is welcome is the long overdue recognition by American and British police that "quality of life" offences deserve their attention at least as much as more violent crimes which drive public fear. Most criminologists agree the high number of US homicides is the result of easy access to

handguns. They admire the British government's willingness to ban them, and will be dismayed they have not followed their own logic and banned them altogether.

ROGER GRAEF  
London W9

### Oxford welcomed gift from Flick

Sir: Even by the standards of the press coverage of the controversy over the Flick Chair of European Thought at Oxford, James Archer's letter (19 November) sets a high level of inaccuracy.

He says the university's ethics committee was against accepting Dr Flick's generous benefaction. It was not, nor did the university ever seek to repudiate it.

He then says that the Chair of European Thought would have promoted understanding between European cultures. As holder of the Chair, now re-endowed by a new benefactor, I find this gratifying, but why the use of the past conditional?

The Flick case, in which I concurred with the university's decision to accept the money and was grateful for it, and the Said case, in which, on the terms the donor seeks to exact, I do not, are in no way comparable and Mr Archer does a disservice to clear thinking about either by giving currency to his self-made muddle.

JW BURROW  
Professor of European Thought  
University of Oxford

### Our vouchers did expand nurseries

Sir: Margaret Hodge's letter (18 November) suggests that the nursery education voucher scheme has not created new places.

The Government has never claimed that the voucher scheme would provide all the places needed for four-year-olds overnight. But a sound start has been made in just one term. Figures from a survey undertaken by Norfolk County Council show, in the private and voluntary sectors alone, 285 new places for four-year-olds with vouchers, and 1,300 children taking advantage of more sessions each week. Good news indeed for those children and their parents. I would be fascinated to know what Margaret Hodge considers created those extra sessions if it was not nursery vouchers.

In the state sector, Norfolk County Council has created 1,300 new nursery places. Of these, some 600 are attributed by the council to the voucher scheme. Norfolk, and the three other phase one LEAs, were given modest additional borrowing permission in 1996-97 because the Private Finance Initiative - which we expect to be a significant source of capital in 1997-98 and onwards - was not sufficiently developed at the time.

Schools tend to recruit into nursery and reception classes in the autumn term. It is no surprise, therefore, that the proportion of children in state schools has

probably increased. It happens every year, as Margaret Hodge should know, with the voluntary sector picking up increased numbers in the spring and summer terms.

ROBIN SQUIRE MP  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State  
Department for Education and Science  
London SW1

### The Abbess and the Snark

Sir: The Abbess Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179) began to have those visions which so impressed and influenced her contemporaries at the age of 42; and, at the other end of the spectrum, Lewis Carroll wrote in *The Hunting of the Snark*: "He had forty-two boxes, all carefully packed."

With his name painted clearly on each. But since he omitted to mention the fact,

They were all left behind on the beach.

JEREMY BARKER  
KATHERINE BARKER  
Sherborne,  
Dorset

### About that euro

Sir: Now that all the major parties have decided to hold a referendum if they decide in government to recommend that the UK should join the European single currency, which will be the first to announce that a referendum will be held if they decide to recommend against it?

GORDON MACINTYRE  
Ayr

### War dead who reject the silence

Sir: James Seymour's unease about a permanent two-minute silence on Armistice Day (letter, 15 November) may well be shared by millions, including - *in absentia* - many of those who died.

On my way to this country in 1943 with several hundred other trained aircrew, a dozen or so of us used to meet in one of the troopship's lifeboats after lunch, to play cards and discuss various matters. One was whether or not we wished our whole nation to come to a stop for two minutes each year on the date the previous war had ended, in order to remember those of us who would not survive the present one.

One person was wholly in favour of the two-minute silence. The rest of us came to the consensus that it might be all right for a decade or two after the war, if most people wished it, but that we would all much prefer that the survivors and their relatives devoted at least some of their time each year to a concerted effort in trying to understand why wars broke out, and in what way they could be prevented - a positive outlook.

As one of the very few survivors of our little group, I feel I would be dishonouring the memory of those who "got the chop" if I were now to support the very thing they did not want. It gave me an unpleasant feeling when I saw on television a British policeman compulsorily hold up a line of traffic for this year's two-minute silence. The regimented nature of the two-minute silence at this late date reminds me a bit too much of the kind of regimentation that we were all fighting against, though I quite understand the noble thought behind it.

LEN CLARKE  
Uxbridge,  
Middlesex

Sir: Britain may well be obsessed with the past, and nostalgia compared with countries overseas, particularly about the Second World War (letter, 18 November).

The point about the two-minute silence, however, is not merely to continue some rose-tinted tradition, but to remember those who died not only in that war, but in conflicts all over the world. Throughout Europe, extreme right-wing groups who share Nazi ideals still proliferate and have widespread support. The tragedy of the Bosnian conflict, which echoed so many of the horrors of the Second World War, made it clear that the world has learnt very little in the past 52 years, and two minutes of reflection a year is therefore still terribly relevant. It is a small but significant gesture, and should not be dismissed.

MAJJA PAWINSKA  
Croydon, Surrey

### Spare an iron

Sir: Quite by chance I discovered the seemingly little-known fact that 1p and 2p British coins, minted in 1992 and after, are magnetic, whereas those minted earlier are not. Presumably the latter were of a copper alloy whilst the magnetic ones contain a fair proportion of iron.

Iron is rather cheaper than copper, so the currency is, in a sense, debased. Beggars should ask folk to spare an iron, rather than a copper. And why the fuss about a single European currency, when our own is not what it used to be?

Dr JAMES HUTCHISON  
Birmingham

Am  
MA  
sen  
Tim  
nat  
ple  
017  
a li

---

RC  
The  
son:  
back  
an P  
Prin  
UK  
man  
Edi  
tition  
Dust  
You

Ch  
The  
man  
illa

Rochester, New York, party  
 had 12,000 members. It  
 consisted of  
 His backing  
 amount. The  
 man in the  
 "Abolitionist"  
 government  
 all his com-  
 The two  
 war, some  
 party back  
 a formidable  
 was a solid  
 average for  
 son of his  
 seek other  
 the Whigs  
 of one time  
 more simply  
 David Mc-  
 as "the stop  
 produced  
 weapon. It  
 wrong. In-  
 come to be  
 weapon.  
 This pro-  
 House of C-  
 and presen-  
 Community  
 the first of  
 black as a  
 from white  
 shoes, and  
 not of an  
 its select  
 law, ex-ec-  
 was

# A tax-and-spend election fight doesn't add up

The tension in the air at Labour's press conference yesterday afternoon was palpable. William Waldegrave's attempt to cost Labour's programme marked, unmistakably, the beginning of the end of the phoney war. So far, so good. But are we any wiser?

Conservative costing operations in 1986 and 1991 inflicted real damage on Labour, and in doing so, they helped to change the terms of the debate. If you think Labour has been right to ditch its past tax-and-spend addiction, then it follows that the Tories have already performed a democratic, perhaps even constitutional, service. They have helped to save Labour from itself.

That is precisely why it is more difficult to make the charges stick this time. In 1992, Labour had two cast-iron spending commitments: to restore child benefit and old-age pensions to their 1979 levels. In 1996, it isn't like that.

Many of the biggest of the supposed promises in the Tory dossier don't figure at all in Labour's policy document *New Life for Britain*. And Gordon Brown re-emphasised yesterday that that was the one and only holy writ. Indeed, one side-effect of the Waldegrave document may well be to strengthen Brown's hand in forcing his colleagues to get real. I suspect that several shadow ministers will read Brown's brutal rejection of specific Tory claims about their spending plans with some dismay. It is true, too, that Brown has repeated again and again that increases in spending will be met from existing resources. And nobody in the Shadow Cabinet has been brave enough to challenge that. What's more, Brown shows every sign of meaning it.

To which the sharp young Tory backroom boys have an answer. OK, they say, it's heads we win, tails they lose. Maybe we can't whip up the fear that we did before the last election. And yes, maybe, given our own pretty formidable record of putting up taxes since 1992, we aren't going to be able to say, as Michael Heseltine did last time, that the election will be about three issues: tax, tax, and tax. But if the answer is that these aren't commitments at all, as Brown says, then what on earth have all these frontbench spokesmen been doing going around the country telling appreciative audiences what they want to hear? It plays (the Tories will say) right into our theme of Labour hypocrisy. If Labour isn't spendthrift any more, then it is two-faced instead.

The Tories have a point. It is all very well saying, as Brown did yesterday, that all statements not featured in *New Life for Britain* — including those of Tony Blair — are not party commitments. But then what are they for? If Andrew Smith, former Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, says to the Labour Party conference that Labour will be announcing new ini-



Donald Macintyre

Labour won't put its spending policies on the table until after the vote, while the Tories' claims are highly creative

tiatives to look at how every region of Britain can get high-speed links to the Channel Tunnel, either it presages a policy, or it is just warm words. If David Blunkett cheers up a teachers' conference by saying he will "consider" sabbaticals, is something really going on? Or has he got his fingers crossed behind his back in a "don't worry, Gordon, it's not a commitment" sort of way?

These may be priorities. But Labour is understandably reluctant to identify the savings that would be required to pay for them. So they can't be policies, at least until after the election. The result is an almost surrealistically bleak series of Nyctes from Brown: £51m on the disabled rights Bill will "involve" the merging of existing £500,000 budgets.

Yesterday's Tory document certainly makes some spectacularly creative claims. The only hard evidence for saying that Labour is going to increase spending on community care (would that there was more, many voters will say) is a statement by Margaret Beckett made before Tony Blair even became leader. The Tory estimate for the cost of the national minimum wage of a tidy £3.7bn not only takes no account of potential savings in social security benefit but assumes that it will be introduced at 50 per cent of male earnings, or more than £4 per hour — and therefore that it will affect large parts of the public sector. In the

real world, Labour's minimum wage probably won't be high enough to include most public-sector workers. But in the virtual world of electioneering, Labour dare not say so. And the Tories can say what they like.

Isn't there a better way? As it happens, the Treasury adviser who invented, with spectacular success before the 1987 and 1992 elections, the modern Tory costing of Labour's programme thinks so. In a pamphlet for the Social Market Foundation, Andrew Tyrie suggests an independent fiscal policy committee which would consider both government and opposition tax and spending plans before elections and pronounce on them.

The result of such a process in 1997 might well expose an unmentionable truth: that there is nothing much to choose between the two parties on tax and spending. It would certainly take a lot of steam out of the inter-party conflict on the issue and leave them looking for other things to talk about. The electorate might even be let in on some of the real choices that consenting political adults constantly discuss in private: should we tax child benefit? Would green taxes be sensible? Do we need the European Fighter Aircraft? And so on.

William Waldegrave spoke for the political classes yesterday, no doubt, when he said Tyrie's idea sounded "interesting" but that he doubted that it was "practical".



Given this is a family newspaper, I will spare you the throbbing organs of the 77-year-old Ms Lessing

john walsh



Can the musical salon be back? It seems like centuries since it was commonplace for house-holders of breeding, tone and general poshness to invite their friends to bear some young Chopin nocturnes and Liszt rhapsodies after supper. Readers of Joyce's story "The Dead", from *Dubliners*, will remember the salon run by the music-loving sisters which seemed, even in 1914, a pretty moribund ritual. But the home concert never actually disappeared.

In the past couple of years I've been to a few classical soirées in Notting Hill, put on by friends of raffish (and expensive) taste, and appreciated the evening's air of slightly determined sophistication. But I've never enjoyed one so much as on Saturday night.

The scene was Douglas Hitchens's *Guide Adams* splendourous pad in Islington. A cross-section of A-list types is crammed into an upper room: George Martin, the veteran producer of all the Beatles albums; Terry Gilliam, the crazed visionary director; Melvyn Bragg and Mariella Frostrup and Angus Deayton and Ed Victor and Salman Rushdie and Geoffrey Robertson QC and Kathy Lette and so forth.

There was also a large American in a check shirt, beard and a trophy wife. "Who's that?" I hissed. "Don't you know anything?" came the reply. "Paul Allen, Microsoft billionaire." He turned out not to be the only one of this category present. Later I worked out that the combined wealth of the room was in 11 figures...

The guests piled into Adams's library and dived for the rugs. Great levellers, rugs: Lobbs rugrats fought for space with Armani's bottoms.

Squillionaire deal-makers jostled with suave telly stars for a corner of comfy hessian and calico.

It was like *The Raft of the Medusa*, only with champagne. But then the music started and nobody cared any longer. A guitarist called Robbie McIntosh, looking like one of the more obvious villains in *Cracker*, played blinding instrumentals with his band, the Polygenes, on bass and cello.

A handsome, fiftyish carnival barker from Southend, with slicked-back white hair and a scarlet waistcoat, turned out to be Gary Brooker, former voice and organ of Procul Harum. He sang a love song of staggering lewdness ("Shove me in your steaming vat/ Make me spit like chicken fat") and a moving ballad based on the late-night shipping forecast, with lyrics by D Adams ("Digger, Fisher, German Bight/ Help me make it through the night") before doing the whole of "A Whiter Shade of Pale" with abandoned verve and all.

The star of the evening, though, was Margo Buchanan, a green-eyed chanteuse in a little black number, who smiles like Lulu, sings like Maria Muldaur and has a bit of a way with an audience. She has these terribly slender hands, you see, and when she extends her amazingly long fingers at moments of emphasis, you ... But I fear I'm straying from the night's before doing the whole of "A Whiter Shade of Pale" with abandoned verve and all.

She has always stayed a backing singer, she told me, because she never fancied wiggling her bottom on stage and getting tarried up like a Spice Girl; a back bar, a crush and a dirty blues is more her line. She's probably right, as you sit in the library at this

cool salon and watch this seven-piece line-up (joined by the Pink Floyd maestro, David Gilmour, doing one of his seraphic guitars) doing its stuff, looking around at Microsoft millionaires and the crowned heads of Media London hoochie quite together, you're convinced this must be what heaven — or at least a musician's Valhalla — must sound like. Mr Richard Branson, whose new "grown-up" record label, V2, is launched next week, should sign them up without delay.

I'm rather taken with the behaviour of Bob Dornan, the Republican congressman in Orange County, California, a man who, when it comes to presenting a stiff upper lip to the world in the face of misfortune, makes King Lear look like Douglas Bader. Four years ago, he greeted the challenge of a Democratic woman for his Congress seat by calling her and her supporters "lesbian spear-chuckers". Now he has been beaten in the Congress elections by another bloody woman, Loretta Sanchez, by a mere 765 votes.

Rather than just insult his hated rival, he simply refuses to go. "I will not concede," he said, "to an inarticulate, flaky, non-qualified person."

Even if they declare Ms Sanchez the winner after counting all the out-of-town

and immigrant votes, he ain't budging.

"It would be a travesty," he opined. "To have someone who spent 22 years in the Air Force voted out of office by non-citizens."

It's the magnificent irrelevance of his argument that's so striking. It's like Mike Atherton refusing to go after having his middle stump demolished ("I'm sorry, but it would be a shame to have someone who's spent years playing for his county cricket side being voted off the field by a non-batsman"). Next time I get a ticket I shall tell the traffic warden: "It's a rank injustice, warden, that someone who spent 25 years on public transport should ..."

Race yourselves, everyone, it's Bad Sex time once again. Auberon Waugh started up the Bad Sex Award four years ago, its purpose "to draw attention to crude, otiose or perfunctory use of sexual description in the contemporary novel, and to discourage it".

"It's not for inept pornography, you see, but for badly handled, if that's the word I'm after, interruptions of smut in otherwise 'literary' novels. The shortlist is published in the new issue of Waugh's *Literary Review*, out today, and a fine haul it is too."

AA Gill, hapless author of the year's most abused novel, *Sap Rising*, is in, but he's among distinguished company: Salman Rushdie, Doris Lessing, JG Ballard, Ben Okri and Mexico's finest novelist, Carlos Fuentes, all feature as well.

Given this is a family newspaper, I will spare you the throbbing organs of the 77-year-old Ms Lessing, the "vulgar aromas of ripe fruits" (Fuentes) and the "sweet gulches with their soft

underdown" (Ballard, and he's talking about armpits, actually), nor will I outrage your delicate sensibilities by lingering on what Mr David Huggins calls "my blob of Lo-Cal genetics".

I will, however, offer you my favourite entry, this charming passage from *The Horse Whisperer* by Nicholas Evans, which at least seems to show a bit of respect for the business of sex.

"He pulled the faded quilt from the bed and opened the sheets and she laid herself down and watched him take off his boots and socks and then his jeans and shorts. And he felt no shame nor saw any in her, for why should they feel shame at what was not of their making but of some deeper force that stirred not just their bodies but their souls and knew naught of shame nor of any such construct?"

Delightful. It's that word "naught" isn't it? (Maybe Mr Evans thought it had something to do with "naughty".) And as you're trying to shake off the mental picture of Mr Robert Redford (who is to play the HW in the movie) removing his shameless shorts, the thought strikes you: is he ever going to take his shirt off? Or his vest? Or his hat? Maybe there should be a sequel: *The Clothes-Horse Whisperer* ...

## The party's over for top Tories

The names of Tory MPs who are retiring at the election reads as if a census had been taken at Camelot. Twenty-eight knights of shire and suburb, 18 members of the Privy Council, nine also-rans and Steve Norris are to quit. That makes a total, so far, of 57 members of the 1922 Committee. A veteran or two will remain (providing they survive the election), including Sir Marcus Fox and Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith. What will such a purge do to the post-election Tory party?

I was first elected to Parliament as MP for Rochester and Chatham in October 1959. The Tory party was led by Harold Macmillan, whose bad teeth, shabby cardigan and elegant deviousness set the tone for a five-year Parliament. His necktie bore the stripes of the Brigade of Guards. Until the 1930s there was a phrase common in the Brigade, "to be as brave as a Macmillan". But in the early Sixties, when his government lost popularity, he stood in need of all his courage.

The run-of-the-mill Tory MP had had "a good war", some still used their military rank. The party's backbench defence committee attracted a formidable body of military men. Today, there is not a soldier in the party. Forty years ago, the average Tory had gone into politics as an extension of his sense of social obligation. He did not seek office. He was content to serve, either in the Whips' Office, which in those days consisted of one-time adjutants of good regiments, or, more simply, as the party's ballast.

David Maxwell Fyfe (described by Macmillan as "the stupidest man I have ever met") once proclaimed that loyalty was the party's secret weapon. He was to be proved disastrously wrong. In fact, and in recent years, disloyalty has come to be the Conservative Party's not-so-secret weapon.

I have prints taken from two pictures of the House of Commons. The first, painted in 1960, and presented to the Prime Minister by the 1922 Committee as a gesture of thanks for winning the 1959 election, shows the Tory benches as black as a convention of undertakers. The uniform worn was black trousers, black hand-made shoes and striped jackets. Ties, when they were not of an instantly recognisable stripe, were of City silver. In my picture a confident Macmillan is seen at the despatch box, lord of all he surveys. The old actor-manager was at his peak.

The second painting, done in the mid-Eighties, shows a very different picture. The under-



Win or lose, the election will be the end of a famous era, writes Julian Critchley, lamenting the new Conservative class

takers have given way to birds, if not of paradise, then of prey. White handkerchiefs have become blue suits a lighter shade of pale, shoes, either brown or grey. It is impossible to tell a Conservative MP from a Labour colleague.

Were a third picture to be painted circa 1996, it would owe more to Bacon than to Botticelli. The new breed of Conservative combines something of Steve Norris, a little of Edwina Currie

and a good deal of David Mellor. The Government backbenches are packed with hard-faced young men flaunting their ideology, either in favour of the untrammelled forces of the market, or of hostility to all things pertaining to Europe, like so many mobile telephones.

They all seek office, or, if not, lucrative consultancies. The looming figure of Bill Cash, a man with the biggest feet in England, Sir Teddy

Taylor and James Cran would, as one man, raise their tattered banner. Only Sir James Goldsmith would be missing.

What will disappear with the election, whether or not the Tories win or lose, is idealism. The old One Nation Conservative will be in a small minority; the pro-Europeans, who wanted to build a New Europe with Britain enjoying a prominent place within it, will have retired to their Sunset Homes. We were the children of Hitler's war; we wanted to bring to an end the enmity between France and Germany which had been the cause of two catastrophic wars. We saw Europe as the only alternative to a steady political and economic decline. Not all of us were federalists (whatever that ill-used word might mean), but we were intelligent patriots, never nationalists. We despised populism, and sought civil harmony.

One has only to glance at the list of names of those who will quit politics to see how grave a loss their departure will entail. Douglas Hurd, David Howell, Kenneth Baker, Paddy Mayhew and George Walden, all of whom have striven to keep the ship afloat. It is particularly sad that Richard Ryder, until recently the Chief Whip, is to abandon politics. He suffers from a bad back. His career could have been a glittering one. At least his successor, Keith Simpson, is an intelligent moderate. But Simpson is the exception to the rule.

The Euro-sceptics, that party within a party funded in part by Lady Thatcher, have recently made great play with the "fact" that the bulk of the new Tory candidates are against a common currency. I have not been privy to their researches, such as they are, but I fear that they are probably correct.

A brief look at the names of those who will succeed fills me with gloom. Eric Forth will be returned for Chislehurst. Oliver Letwin, a clever right-winger, will, in all likelihood, take the place of Sir James Spicer. Were the Government to be returned with a large majority, the newcomers would make up a New Model Army. But such a victory is hardly likely: we would do well to scrape home. Defeat on any scale would leave a disenchanted rump of Tories that would look either to Fortillo or Redwood as its new leader, and by so doing, condemn a great party to 20 years in the wilderness. Which, I can only conclude, would be the best place for it.

Sir Julian Critchley is the Conservative MP for Aldershot. He, too, is retiring at the election.

## CENTRAL AFRICA URGENT APPEAL FOR AID



Thousands of refugees are facing yet more hardship as they return to Rwanda without food, water or shelter. Thousands more remain scattered throughout Zaire. All of these people still desperately need our help.

Clean water, food, medical supplies and shelter are desperately needed. Red Cross workers are well placed to provide this aid as soon as it arrives. Please phone now to give as much as you can. Just £25 could feed 35 refugees for one week.

Please call now with your credit card donation.

0345 315 315

QUOTING REFERENCE 3705 Or you can send a cheque or postal order with the coupon below.

British Red Cross Caring for people in crisis

Enclose a cheque/postal order (payable to British Red Cross) for  
☐ £250\* ☐ £50 ☐ £35 ☐ £25 Other £  
 Or please debit my Visa/Mastercard/Amex/Owners Club/Switch Card  
 No.  Exp. Date   
 Today's date  Signature   
 Mr/Mrs/Ms/Ms   
 Address   
 Postcode  Tel.   
 \*A donation of £250 or more is worth a third as much again through Gift Aid as to not reclaim the tax. Please ensure you complete your address details.  
☐ Please tick this box if you do not want to receive further information from the Red Cross  
☐ Tick this box if you would like a receipt. STS 12.11.96

# business & city

Business news desk: tel 0171-293 2636 fax 0171-293 2098  
BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

## Clarke warned against tax cuts as economy surges ahead

**Diane Coyle**  
Economics Editor

The Chancellor of the Exchequer was advised against cutting income tax in his Budget next week after a batch of figures yesterday showed the economy romping ahead.

Good news about the economy has delighted ministers, but makes the Government's tax and interest rate decisions increasingly delicate. A tough Budget on Tuesday offers the best hope for avoiding higher mortgage rates, but a reduction in income tax is seen as a political necessity. Consumer confidence this month has increased to its highest level for a decade. Retail sales continued on

their strong upward trend in October after a dip the previous month. Mortgage lending jumped, new consumer loans returned to near-record levels, while total lending surged by more than £7bn during the month.

"The last thing the consumer needs is another shot in the arm from tax cuts," said Alex Garrard, an economist at City Bank UBS.

"Will Kenneth Clarke have the nerve to do what he should, and put up personal taxes?" said Martin Weale, director of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research and one of the Chancellor's independent advisers. "If not, the need for higher interest rates will become much more urgent."

Many City analysts now believe Mr Clarke will have to raise base rates again before the likely election date to avoid a further damaging disagreement with the Bank of England.

"The Governor will be pressing quite hard for another increase at the next meeting, and the Chancellor will have to give way in December or January," said David Walton of investment bank Goldman Sachs.

Yesterday brought unmistakable evidence of the strength of consumer spending. A further improvement in optimism about the state of the economy took overall consumer confidence to its highest since 1986, according to the regular GfK survey for the European Commission.

The pick-up in confidence during the past year has been greatest for 16-29 year olds and for men. The balance of optimism over pessimism climbed into positive territory, at 1 per cent, compared with minus 10 per cent a year ago.

The rising tide of "feel-good" showed up in last month's retail sales, which were up 0.4 per cent in volume terms after a 0.3 per cent fall in September. "Rising high street sales show that people have cash to spend and the confidence to spend it," said Angela Knight, economic secretary to the Treasury.

Higher sales of clothing accounted for more than a third of the month's gain, despite a record one-month

price increase pushed through by retailers. However, footwear sales were flat after a big drop the previous month.

Another third was due to higher food sales, recovering from their weakness earlier in the year. Furniture and carpet sales accounted for most of the rest of the increase.

Total sales volumes were 4 per cent higher than a year earlier, their fastest growth for two years. The strongest components in year-on-year terms were clothing and household goods.

The housing market also continued to thrive last month. New loans by building societies rose by 27 per cent to £1.5bn during the month,

adjusting for seasonal variation, and were more than three times higher than the same month a year earlier. The number of new loans approved increased by a third year-on-year.

The high street banks reported a 50 per cent increase in mortgage loans last month, although the level was only 5 per cent higher than a year earlier. The banks' other consumer lending jumped to £507m, near the summer's record level.

Lending to companies increased too, according to the British Bankers' Association. Securities dealers repaid money but a broad range of other companies increased their borrowing.

"This may well reflect a recovery in capital spending," said Adam Cole, an economist at brokers James Capel.

Total lending to the private sector, which also includes lending by foreign banks, doubled between September and October to £7.4bn. There was a corresponding surge in M4, the broad measure of the money supply, whose annual growth rate climbed from 9.9 per cent to 10.3 per cent. The steady acceleration in broad money growth, although inflated last month by a somewhat bigger than usual impact of gilts repo transactions, is sure to alarm the Bank of England.

Comment, page 23

## National Power plans RECs supply venture

**Michael Harrison**

National Power, the country's biggest generator, is in negotiations with three regional electricity companies and a leading supermarket chain to create a combined electricity supply business when the market is opened to competition in 1998.

Keith Henry, chief executive of National Power, said he expected to sign an agreement by next spring. The deal could involve the generator taking a direct equity stake in the supply company or agreeing a long-term alliance to sell electricity to the venture.

Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity industry regulator, is expected to publish guidelines soon setting out his views on what role the generators should be allowed to play when the electricity supply market is liberalised.

PowerGen, the rival generator, is also talking to a number of RECs with a view to entering the supply market directly. Both National Power and PowerGen were blocked by the Government from buying RECs earlier this year.

But a deal with the supply

businesses of the RECs would give both generators access not just to regional electricity markets but all of Britain's 22 million domestic customers.

"We are talking to RECs that are both still independent and part of larger groups. We don't want to go charging into the retail electricity market on our own," Mr Henry said.

Britain's biggest energy users have called for a radical overhaul of the system for regulating the privatised gas and electricity industries. The Energy Intensive Users Group, which represents big industrial consumers like cement, glass, steel, paper and chemical firms, told MPs that a Commons select committee should be set up to monitor the regulators. It also said customers should have an appeals mechanism to a competition commission.

Separately, ICI, told the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee that Professor Stephen Littlechild at Ofwat and Clare Spottiswoode at Ofgas should be replaced by three-strong panels of regulators reporting to a "regulatory overlord" to produce more balanced decision-making and greater consistency.

He declined to name the RECs that National Power was talking to or the supermarket group. However, Safeway has been rumoured to be interested in a deal to sell electricity.

Mr Henry was speaking at National Power disclosed that last year's attempted takeover of Southern Electric and its defence against a planned bid

from a US utility had cost the company £57m. Of this, £52m relates to the exceptional loss National Power has taken on the 8 per cent stake it bought in Southern Electric at the time of its bid. It paid 96p a share compared with Southern's price of 615.5p on 30 September.

The remaining £5m relates to fees charged by advisers, mainly

Pre-exceptional profits were also down marginally at £251m owing to a decline in National Power's market share from 30 to 27 per cent following the £1.7bn sale of 4,000 megawatts of plant to the Hanson-owned Eastern Group. Its first half in 1995 also included an extra week's trading.

The decline in UK profits was offset by a jump in overseas earnings from £6m to £23m. The company is forecasting that its international businesses will contribute £70m in post-tax profits for the full year and £145m in 1997-98.

National Power has so far invested £900m in generating projects in Australia, Pakistan, the US, Turkey and China and is prepared to spend at least £800m more on a big overseas acquisition if the right opportunity presents itself.

A fifth of its 4,500 staff are based overseas where it has interests in 7,500 megawatts of capacity compared with its 16,000 megawatts of UK generating plant.

The company expects its UK market share to shrink to 25 per cent this year compared with 32 per cent in 1995.

## £1.5m balm for ousted Psion boss

**Tom Stevenson**  
City Editor

Mike Langley, ousted finance director of hand-held computer maker Psion, eased the pain of his imminent redundancy yesterday by exercising options over shares in his former employer worth £1.5m. He immediately cashed in stock worth more than £800,000 and still retains a stake in the company with a value of a further £1.5m.

Mr Langley, who remains

with the company while a specific project is completed, is to be replaced as head of Psion's finance function after 11 years at the computer group.

Having guided Psion through its 1988 flotation and seen the company grow from a £4m business to one worth more than £300m, he will be replaced by his number two, Marina Wyatt, a former Arthur Andersen accountant.

Psion has been one of the most dramatic stock market

success stories in recent years, making share options awarded more than three years ago extremely valuable.

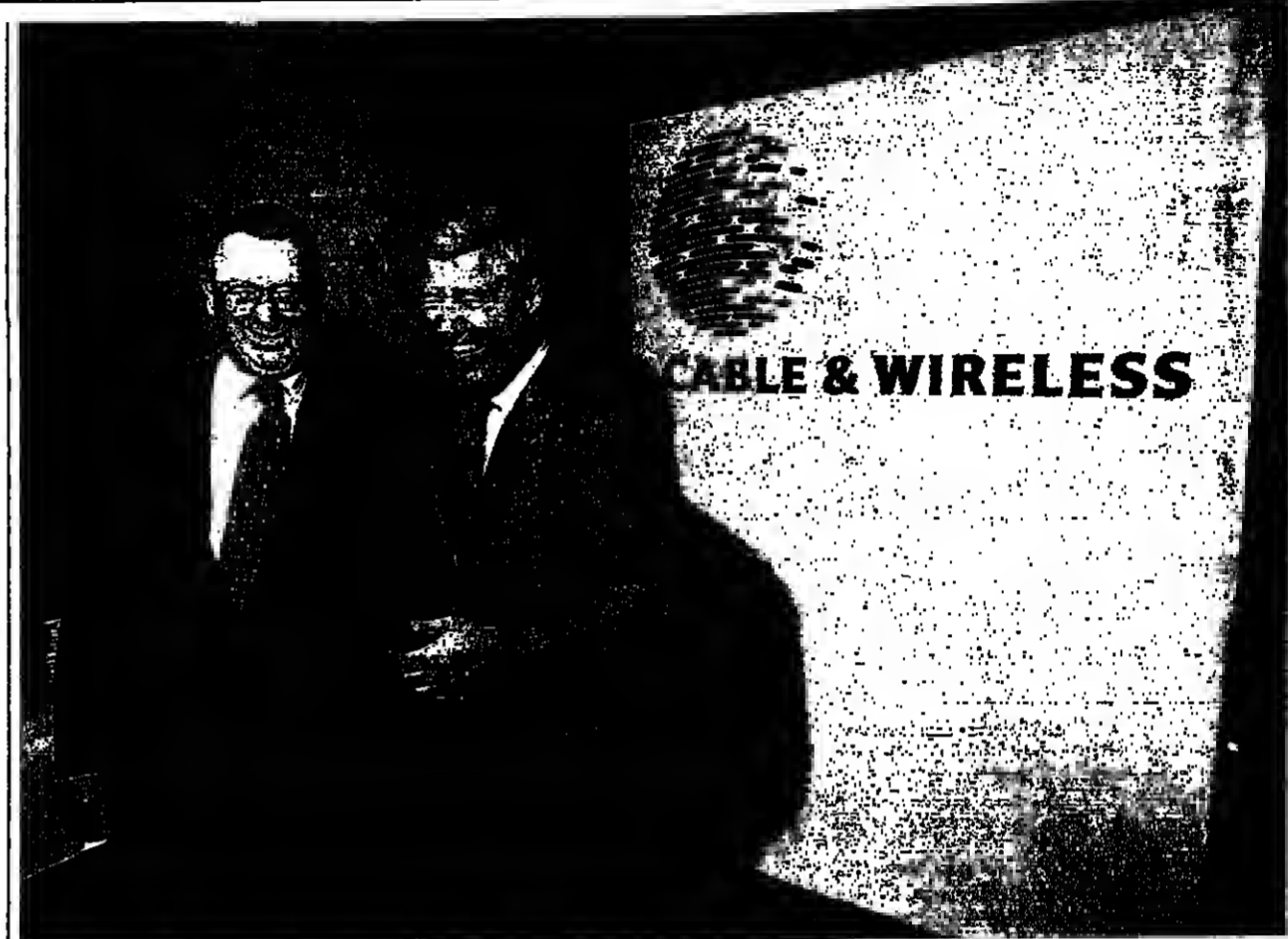
On the back of the company's successful Series 3A electronic organiser, the shares have soared from an equivalent of under 2p in August 1993 to yesterday's close of 451.5p.

Mr Langley exercised options over 330,669 shares at prices ranging from 24.7p to 59p for a total outlay of £141,202. At yesterday's closing price

those shares were worth £1.49m and he immediately sold 181,000 to raise £814,500. Following the disposal, Mr Langley retains a holding of 337,000 shares, worth £1.52m.

Psion agreed to part company with Mr Langley last month in what one analyst described as a piece of "brutal realism".

David Potter, chairman, described the parting as amicable but it was felt that Psion had outgrown Mr Langley's capabilities as finance director.



Connecting to cable networks: Dick Brown and chairman Dr Brian Smith yesterday

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

## C&W in talks with Telewest

**Chris Godsmark**  
Business Correspondent

Cable & Wireless is biding its time in informal discussions with Telewest, the cable television operator, in a drive to expand its recently announced £5bn link-up between Mercury and four other UK cable operators.

In what promises to be another hectic period of deal-making under Dick Brown, the recently appointed chief executive, Cable & Wireless is also believed to have given itself a year to reduce its 58 per cent stake in the hugely lucrative Hongkong Telecom division as the colony approaches the handover of power to China.

A deal with Telewest would give Cable & Wireless Communications, the merged group,

access to more than 600,000 extra phone customers and a potential 4.5 million homes and businesses in the South-east, the South-west Midlands and the North.

Mr Brown is known to be keen to expand further the reach of the new cable group, as Mercury continues to show damage from its reliance on indirect access to residential customers through a special button on the telephone handset.

Cable & Wireless yesterday disclosed a drop in Mercury's residential customer base, by 7 per cent to 716,000 over the last six months.

The creation of Cable & Wireless Communications, which includes the UK cable franchises of Nynex Cablecomms, Bell Cablemedia and

Videotron, enables Mercury to gain direct access to homes for the first time.

Mr Brown would only say yesterday that Cable & Wireless "continues to talk to people as we have been all along". However, the discussions are also thought to have involved Comcast, another UK cable operator, which is also understood to have held separate merger talks with Telewest.

It is unclear whether an alliance with merged Telewest-Comcast group would go beyond a joint marketing partnership to include some form of equity stake. Sources suggested Mr Brown may want to include the cable operators in a bigger deal involving One-2-One. The UK mobile phone company which is jointly owned by Cable

& Wireless and US West, a main shareholder in Telewest.

One suggestion is that he would be prepared to swap Cable & Wireless's long distance phone interests in the US for some of US West's shares in Telewest. This would allow the British group to maintain its majority stake in Cable & Wireless Communications.

Separately, the moves to reduce the stake in Hongkong Telecom underlines Mr Brown's determination to sort out the issue before next June.

Cable & Wireless yesterday revealed a 17 per cent rise in operating profits to £746m in the six months to the end of September. However, a one-off £199m boost to last year's figures meant headline pre-tax profits fell by 10 per cent to £734m.

## Strip club teases investors with public share offer

**Nigel Cope**

It promises to be one of the more risqué share issues of recent times, its success almost guaranteed by the irresistible combination of sex and money. Britain is to get its first publicly quoted "lap dancing" club.

From next May, the Berkeley Playhouse will open in the heart of London's Mayfair district, with a troupe of 150 girls. For £10 they will perform an erotic dance "in your lap".

"I'm going to be the Playboy Club of the late 1990s," pledges the club's spokesman, Peter Morley. "This is the first club of its kind in England and promises to be a very sexy investment."

The Berkeley Club is raising £2.1m through the Enterprise Investment Scheme and plans

to bring the club to the Ofex market, though no date has been set.

There is a minimum investment of £5,000 (£1 a share), for which investors gain free membership to the club. An outlay of £10,000 secures free life

membership. Otherwise private membership costs £200, or £500 for corporate deals.

The company is attempting to maintain a sense of decorum with its investment material, though its prospectus features page numbers illustrated with

pictures of a blonde "dancer" in various stages of undress. Sporting a fishnet bodysuit and stockings in the introductory section on page two, she is virtually naked by the listing particulars at the back.

The club is the brainchild of

John Paul, a nightclub entrepreneur who developed shops on London's Carnaby Street in the 1960s and ran 1960s nightclubs Wedgies and Tokyo Joe. The concept is based on others in the United States, where they have proved a huge success.

A key job at the Berkeley Club is held by Alan Whitehead, a former member of the Marmalade 1960s pop group. Now a choreographer, his task is to train the dancers, who can earn up to £400 a night.

Mr Morley is adamant the Berkeley Playhouse will not be a sleazy strip joint. "It's for chaps from the City and the West End. It's definitely not for the dirty mac brigade."

The notion was ridiculed yesterday by Peter Stringfellow, the nightclub impresario who has been running lap dance nights at his club three times a week since July. "With all respect to them [the Berkeley Playhouse] they are asking for a lot of money without a great deal of knowledge about the market. I'm very sceptical."



Page-turner: A blonde 'dancer' helps illustrate Berkeley Playhouse's assets in its prospectus

## Airbus and Boeing to split \$3bn order

**Michael Harrison**  
London  
and **David Osborne**  
New York

Air France, the ailing state-owned carrier, yesterday averred a political row by splitting a \$3bn (£1.8bn) aircraft order between Boeing of the US and Europe's Airbus Industrie.

The French transport minister, Bernard Pons, had wanted Air France to buy exclusively from Airbus, to which the French have a 37.5 per cent stake, but was overruled by Prime Minister Alain Juppé.

The airline will buy 10 Boeing 777 aircraft and 10 long-range Airbus A340s. It has taken out options to buy a further 10 777s and five more A340s.

Separately, American Airlines is set to announce a \$6bn order today for 100-plus planes from Boeing, American, which is expected to merge transatlantic operations next year with British Airways, will use the order to revamp its fleet significantly. The carrier is expected to sell its fleet of MD-11 wide-bodied jets to Federal Express, the courier company, and to retire several ageing Airbus, Fokker and Boeing 727 aircraft.

The Boeing aircraft for Air France will be powered by GE90 engines built by General Electric of the US and Snecma of France. The 777 order replaces an order to buy 15 Boeing 767s and 737s which dated back seven years but which was frozen in 1994 after Air France ran into financial problems.

Air France already operates Boeing 737s, 767s and 747 Jumbos jets. Although Mr Pons had wanted the latest order to exclude Boeing, Christian Blanc, the airline's chairman, had to stick with Boeing for part of the order, otherwise would have forfeited cash deposits made on the original Boeing order.

The Airbus deal, meanwhile, consists of only five new orders since it includes five A340-200s that Air France announced it was purchasing in June.

The unveiling of the American Airlines order with Boeing was contingent on a vote expected yesterday from leaders of America's pilots' union to put a new labour contract to its membership. The promise of a dramatically modernised fleet was thought to have helped conclude talks between the union and management.

STOCK MARKETS					
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1996 High	1996 Low
FTSE 100	3982.80	-15.30	-0.4	4073.10	3632.30
FTSE 250	4400.20	-0.10	-0.0	4566.00	4015.30
FTSE 350	1974.20	-0.00	-0.3	2022.10	1816.00
FTSE SmallCap	2159.00	-0.02	-0.0	2244.36	1954.06
FTSE All-Share	1948.57	-5.51	-0.3	1994.54	1791.95
New York	6422.20	+24.60	+0.4	6397.80	5032.94
Nikkei	21189.95	+233.78	+1.1	22668.80	19734.70
Hong Kong	13167.15	+110.23	+0.8	13167.16	10204.87
Frankfurt	2774.50	+10.41	+0.4	2796.80	2253.36

INTEREST RATES					
Short sterling	UK medium	US long bond	Short sterling	UK medium	US long bond
6.40	6.40	6.40	6.40	6.40	6.40
6.40	6.40	6.40	6.40	6.40	6.40
6.40	6.40	6.40	6.40	6.40	6.40
6.40	6.40	6.40	6.40	6.40	6.40

CURRENCIES					
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1996 High	1996 Low
US\$	1.6753	+0.0008	+0.05	1.6800	1.6600
£/DM	0.5958	-0.0002	-0.03	0.5960	0.5950
¥/DM	1.6028	+0.0110	+0.68	1.6030	1.6020
¥/£	111.360	+0.008	+0.01	111.360	111.360
Base Rates					
US\$	23.49	+0.27	1.16		
£/DM	379.20	+0.70	0.19		
Gold	226.08	+0.08	0.04		

**WATERPROOF WINDPROOF BREATHABLE**

ALL-WEATHER CLOTHING AT

**HOUSE OF FRASER**



## Clarke needs to do some juggling on his tightrope

'Public finances are in a long-term mess and this is precisely the wrong point in the economic cycle to give another boost to consumer spending power'

Kenneth Clarke, not a man ever likely to commit himself to the disciplines of the Lawson diet, cuts an unlikely figure as a tightrope walker. But that is his task during the next six months, up to the presumed election date. The economy could scarcely be turning out better for the Government, as yesterday's retail sales figures underlined. Consumer confidence, a key indicator of voting intentions, has returned to its highest level since 1986, in Nigel Lawson's own pre-diet days. But the usual negative consequences of a boom, whether mini or maxi, will not become apparent until after the election. Both inflation and the trade deficit are certainly likely to climb but are unlikely to reach embarrassing proportions until the next government is installed.

Mr Clarke has two problems, however. The first is the received wisdom in his party that a reduction in income tax is a political necessity. The Conservatives have promised a 20p basic rate and have to keep moving towards it. Otherwise, there is a danger that Labour's "22 tax increases since 1992" campaign will hit target. Reductions in Tuesday's Budget will also put the Opposition on the spot for the Government will certainly challenge Labour to vote against tax cuts.

The problem is that there is not a shadow of doubt that this would also be bad economics. The public finances are in a long-term mess and this is also the wrong point in the economic cycle to give another boost to consumer spending power. With higher

income growth and building society windfalls to look forward to, it would be perverse to put even more money in people's pockets.

The second difficulty is posed by the fact that we all know now what the Governor of the Bank of England thinks ought to happen to interest rates – and that he is a pretty good, if tough, judge of the Chancellor's conduct of monetary policy. In the days before the publication of minutes of their meetings, a Chancellor, hoping to postpone a difficult decision to a more convenient date would have been able to do so. Mr Clarke will face strong and public pressure from the Bank to raise base rates again within the next month or two, unless he delivers a particularly tough Budget. The Bank will spell out that if he does not agree, it will mark the death of the Government's own inflation target. This is not what somebody who has made a virtue of ostentatious economic prudence wants said about him.

Can the Chancellor stay on the tightrope? The prudent thing would be a fiscally neutral Budget on Tuesday. He might then get away with doing nothing on interest rates too, coasting to the election on the strength of the economy. There is another alternative, though not a particularly honest one. This would be a Budget giveaway which stayed just about within the bounds of credibility but which the Chancellor has no real intention of putting into practice. It is easily forgotten that most of the measures to be announced will not take effect until April,

a month before the election. It would not be hard to find excuses for reversing the process immediately afterwards.

But perhaps the most compelling option is the rolling programme, the promise of jam tomorrow, the hope-postponed type of Budget. This allows the Chancellor to do little for the time being but promise much in future, conditions allowing of course. It's hard to teach a politician new tricks.

### Steering clear of the auction room

Some of our best-known investment banks appear to be refusing to join the move towards cheaper underwriting commissions for rights issues. It might be just caution, or a reasoned commercial decision on the part of BZW, SBC Warburg and most of the big US houses not to join a price war. But a much deeper argument seems to be going on behind the scenes.

Kleinwort Benson yesterday launched another rights issue incorporating a partial auction of the sub-underwriting, a £45m fund raising for Biocompatibles. With two pioneering issues by Schroders earlier this month this brings the grand total of the new auctions to five. But so far, nobody other than Schroders and Kleinwort – with Merrill Lynch coming in jointly on Biocompatibles – seems willing to come into the auction room.

There was no auction in the SBC Warburg rights issue for Azlan on Tuesday. BZW too has made polite noises about encouraging flexibility, but in its handling of a couple of recent share issues, including the Invesco rights, it has stuck to fixed commissions. Some institutions even suspect a deliberate attempt to undermine the move to new flexible commission rates.

You don't have to look far for motive in all this. Institutional enthusiasm for innovation – even though it costs them money in lower commissions – stems from the belief that there is a serious risk of the OFT and MMC delving into the whole question of capital-raising, thus whittling away shareholders' pre-emption rights, a closely related issue. And who in the City wants to see pre-emption rights eroded, replacing rights issues with US-style bought deals? Why none other than some of the big integrated investment banks that have failed to come into the auction room.

### Darwin's theory of evolution

Here's an odd one. A company which hardly anyone knows anything about, except that it's in biotechnology and eats money, buys a company even fewer people know anything about except that it's much the same – a loss making hiotech hopeful. Fortunately it has Bill Gates as a shareholder

so the shares move briskly ahead. That in a nutshell summarises reaction in the City yesterday to the acquisition by Chiroscience of Darwin Molecular.

Darwin has come along just as investors were groping their way to an understanding of chiral chemistry, the way in which Chiroscience chemically purifies existing drugs to reduce their side effects. By comparison, the activities of the US group rank as science fiction. The company searches for genes to discover why people are prone to certain diseases and boils down huge volumes of data using huge computers to uncover new targets for drugs.

What it's actually worth is anyone's guess. Chiroscience thinks \$120m, more than doubling the \$55m Mr Gates and his pals in the venture capital industry have pumped into the company over the past two years. But then in stock market terms this seems more a case of backing the man irrespective of the company and when good old Bill's there with a ready quote, it hardly matters. "The deal is the right move for both of them," he enthuses. So that's all right then.

A word of warning, however. Mr Gates may be the most talented entrepreneur of his generation, but he's also someone with a multi-billion dollar fortune to burn. Just because Mr Gates has chosen to bet his money on a company with about as much to do with the theory of natural selection as a bag of jelly beans does not mean Chiroscience is on to a winner.

## Buoyant Granada set to launch sale of motorway sites

Mathew Horsman  
Media Editor

Granada, the media and leisure conglomerate, will next week launch the sale of its Welcome Break motorway service sites, by issuing a sales memorandum to between 40 and 50 potential buyers.

The chain of 21 service sites could fetch about £300m, and is believed to have attracted expressions of interest from petrol and food retailers, as well as brewing giant Whitbread.

The news emerged as Granada announced sharply higher pre-tax earnings for the 1995-96 fiscal year. Including for the first time results from Forte, the hotels group won by Granada following a bitter £3.9bn takeover battle early this year.

Profits soared 37 per cent to £480m in the year ending 30 September, which included eight months of Forte earnings. Gerry Robinson, Granada's chairman, added that a mid-battle promise to enhance Forte's profitability by £100m was "well on track" with £40m in enhancements already made. The dividend has been set at 13p for the year, up 11 per cent.

Charles Allen, the group's chief executive, said: "These are

excellent results, and they prove that we have done what we said we would do following the Forte takeover." The key moves have been to reduce overheads, restructure the hotels operations from 11 to three main units, and consolidate the catering businesses, including roadside restaurants, by introducing new menus and higher prices.

The company has also embarked on a large-scale disposals programme, aimed at reducing net debt, which stood at £3.5bn at the end of the year. Earmarked for sale, in addition to Welcome Break, are the Exclusive hotels and a stake in the Savoy Group. The first of the Exclusives, the Hyde Park, was sold for £86m this week to a unit of Jardine Matheson.

Continuing operations, including the company's extensive media side, were sharply ahead year on year. Granada Media Group, which includes the two ITV licences, Granada and London Weekend Television, reported operating profits of £163m, up 17 per cent. The restaurant and catering business, not counting the roadside sites of Little Chef and Happy Eater inherited from Forte, was ahead 25 per cent on a pro-

forma basis. The rental operations were only 3 per cent up year on year, however, reflecting the mature nature of the business.

Despite the figures, shares in Granada dropped 10p to 882.5p yesterday, but analysts said the decline was linked to persistent rumours on the Continent about a possible takeover bid by Granada for troubled hotelier Accor. "We have not approached Accor, and have no intention to do so," Mr Allen said yesterday.

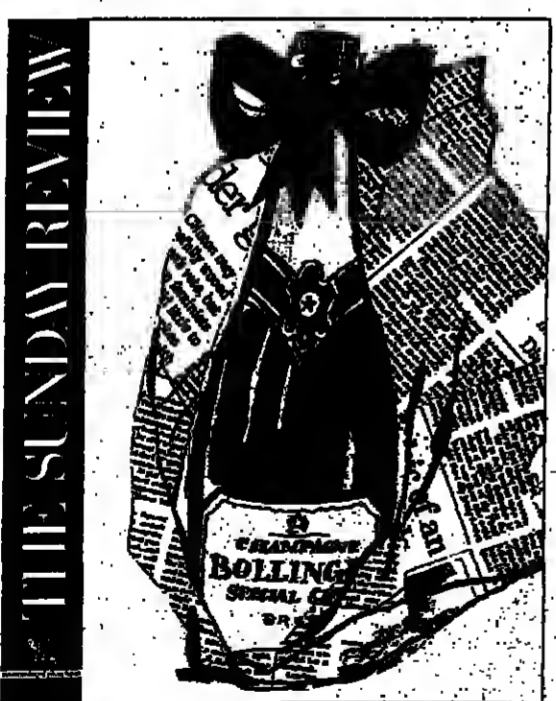
Mr Allen also said for the first time publicly that Granada had no intention of bidding for Manchester United, the Premier League football club, despite persistent rumours that Granada was among the potential predators.

"We would have no interest in such a one-off purchase, it just doesn't make any sense," Mr Allen said.

Mr Robinson conceded that the market might begin to question the "conglomerate" status of Granada, in light of recent high-profile demergers.

"Yes, you could do it. We currently have two large businesses, operating in their own right. But we have no plans to do so in the short or medium term."

Depth: 1.2m  
Temperature: 32°C (and rising)  
Time: 0923hrs



It's that time of year again. Crack open the champagne with Richard Ehrlich and his panel, who test 25 bottles of bubbly as part of our 12-page food and drink special. Plus, festive recipes from top chefs

At the height of her power, Margaret Thatcher rang Lord Wyatt of Weeford almost every day. He dines with Rupert Murdoch. Is he one of the most influential men of our age or a mere gadfly? Geraldine Bedell examines the evidence



Michael Flatley made his fortune and Irish dancing fashionable with his high-stepping skills. Then, everything turned sour. We talk to both sides in the Riverdance row

Plus: Blake Morrison, Helen Fielding, Andy Beckett

IN THIS WEEKEND'S  
INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY



Precisely.

The Tudor Prince Oysterdate Submariner. Tudor prices start at £520.

TUDOR

PROBABLY THE COUNTRY'S LEADING CHAIN OF QUALITY JEWELLERS

GOLD SMITHS WALKER & HALL

To find your nearest Tudor branch call FREE on 0800 220733

# Demerger was not a winning formula at Courtaulds

## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

The urge to demerge has suddenly become unfashionable and it is not hard to see why when pioneers of the genre, like Courtaulds, have done so little for shareholder value some seven years after doing the splits.

Cutting away its currently troubled textiles arm in 1990 has not saved the chemicals rump of the business from a vicious business cycle. Courtaulds went through the mill last year as key raw material prices doubled or tripled. They have since come back to normal, but although acrylics are now definitely in the recovery ward, viscose demand is still in the doldrums, with only the faintest glimmerings of a pick-up as yet.

But the slippage in Courtaulds' profits from £67.8m to £64m in the half-year to September is more complicated than that. Stripping out disposals, underlying operating profits from continuing businesses were up £5m at £80m.

Despite the problems of viscose, the fibres and chemicals division still recorded a 13 per cent increase in operating profits to £27m and there are clear indications that things are moving in the right direction for the group.

The main coatings and sealants

business was hit by one-off factors which should not repeat themselves and Courtaulds' leading positions in aircraft coatings and sealants should allow it to cash in next year on the current surge in aeroplane orders. Boeing alone, where Courtaulds is the dominant supplier, expects business to soar by 55 per cent.

But the real story at Courtaulds remains a long-term one. The Far East consistently notches up profits growth of 15 per cent as the group continues its drive into the region, with businesses like marine and powder coatings and toothpaste tubes all building new facilities there. Next year they will be joined by the third production plant for Courtaulds' Tencel "wonder fibre", now showing its first profits after a decade of development costing around £300m.

The £150m plant will keep capital spending up at around £200m a year for some time, but Tencel will be making at least £60m by the beginning of the new millennium, which is roughly the profits on viscose Courtaulds has lost since the early 1990s, according to analysts' estimates. If viscose is back by then too, 10 per cent margins may become a reality again.

Meantime, profits of £140m this year would put the shares on a forward multiple of 20. That fully values the prospects, while viscose and currency worries will continue to act as a drag on the shares.

### Unigate milks BSE scare

Over the past two years, both Unigate and Northern Foods have gone through the painful process of adjusting their businesses to cope with the rapid decline of doorstep milk deliveries. Plants have been closed, provisions taken and redundancies made. But as the milk industry starts to emerge from the dark days, it seems Unigate holds the stronger position.

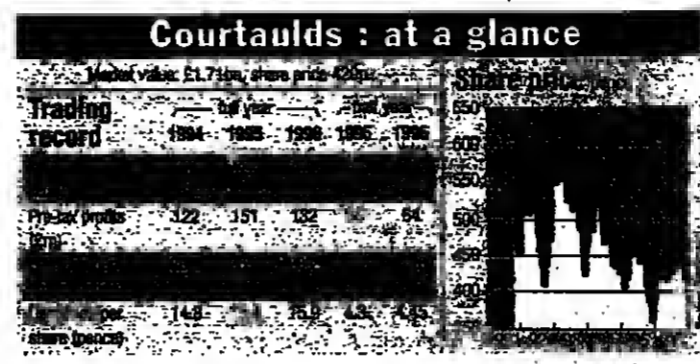
There are two main reasons. One is that Northern is more exposed to the weaker commodity prices which have hit the industry this year. While Unigate has been

able to use excess butter fat to produce cheese and other dairy products, Northern has been unable to do so and has had little option but to sell its surplus at weaker prices.

Then there is the BSE factor. As a large pork producer, Unigate has benefited from the BSE scare while Northern's prepared foods division took a £3m profit hit on BSE in the first half. It has had to produce a raft of new, non-beef, ready-made meals for supermarket customers such as Marks & Spencer and Sainsbury's.

These two factors held back pre-exceptional profits to £57.7m, up just 1 per cent in the six months to September. It was a tale of two halves as the prepared foods division boosted profits by 24 per cent to £43m while the dairy division saw profits fall 27 per cent to £21.6m.

In both divisions, Northern's strategy is to move closer to its main supermarket customers which account for 43 per cent of group sales, compared with 39 per cent last year.



The thinking is that as the super-market giants grab market share, Northern can grow with them. Assuming full-year profits of £129m, the shares, up 25p to 198p yesterday, trade on a forward rating of 12. Hardly expensive but with little prospect of a share buy-back or acquisition, the more lowly rated Unigate looks a better bet.

### Tenancies cast off dull image

The City has fallen so heavily in love with the managed pub chains run by companies such as Regent Inns and JD Wetherspoon that it has had little time for the industry's country cousins in the business of operating tenanted estates. Compared to the heady ratings they have given to managed groups, investors have been prepared to pay a relatively stingy multiple of earnings for tenancies.

Slowly, however, it is dawning on some that tenancies have their attractions and, as a low-risk way into the sector, they have gained some support in the past year since Enterprise Inns and Century Inns

came to the market. Century, which reported figures yesterday, has been the less exciting investment of the two, but even so has given shareholders a return of more than 30 per cent over the 12 months. Pre-tax profits in the year to September of £7.1m were 23 per cent higher than in the comparable period, struck from a 13 per cent rise in sales to £24m from its portfolio of 342 pubs, mainly in the North-east and Yorkshire. A final dividend of 4.5p made a total for the period since flotation of 5.75p.

Tenancies have developed a dull image, thanks largely to the years during which the big brewers used them as cash cows to fund investment in their managed pubs. As a result they were underinvested and often shabby. Properly run and maintained, however, tenancies can be high-margin, stable businesses.

Everything has its price and at 165p, unchanged yesterday, Century's shares trade on a prospective price-earnings ratio of under 11. That is cheaper than Enterprise and a snip compared to the glitzy managed chains whose multiples of more than twice as much are in danger of putting management in a dangerous acquisition-led treadmill. Good value.

## VCI warns of slowdown in trading

Patrick Toohy

VCI, the video distribution group which recently attempted to make an audacious £300m bid for Manchester United, yesterday warned about a slow start to its key Christmas selling period.

In a trading statement, VCI said: "Early indications are that the critical Christmas shopping season has been slower than the last year to gather full momentum in the markets in which we operate."

Although scheduled, the trading update took analysts by surprise. "It was premature for them to put out a statement," said one. "The bulk of VCI's sales come in the final six weeks of the year."

VCI's shares, as high as 349p in July, closed 13p lower at 275.5p as brokers trimmed their profit forecasts from about £9.5m to £9m for this calendar year. In 1995 VCI made pre-tax profits of £8m on sales of £77m.

VCI, chaired by Michael Grade who is also chief executive of Channel Four, said it would issue an update of Christmas trading in January "as usual".

VCI publishes videos ranging from the *Men Behaving Badly* comedy series to *Thomas the Tank Engine* and *Riverdance - The Show*.

In January it bought the

rights to Manchester United's hook and video publishing interests for £2.4m.

Four months later HSBC, VCI's advisers, approached United's chairman, Martin Edwards, to discuss a possible £300m bid for the club.

Talks continued for about a month, but they were overtaken by events when the bid premium VCI was prepared to pay disappeared as United's share price soared on news of a four-year deal worth £670m between the Premier League and BSkyB, the pay-TV broadcaster.

Last night analysts suggested VCI needed the deal with United to improve the company's earnings visibility.

"VCI is a product-led company where profits can disappear overnight," said one. "If anything, it needs something more stable."

Shares in VCI, a management buy-out from quoted Prestwich Holdings in 1989, were floated on the stock market two years ago at 150p, valuing the company at £55m.

Under chief executive Steve Ayres, VCI has avoided the video rental market, which is in long-term decline following the advent of cable and satellite television, to concentrate on the sell-through side of the business.

It is now the UK's leading independent video, book and audio publishing group.

## Chubb in £104m Australian deal

Chubb Security, the alarms and electronic security group chaired by Sir Ernest Harrison, is expanding in Australia, buying the access control and fire protection division of James Hardie Industries, a building materials supplier, for A\$220m (£104m), writes Patrick Toohy. Chubb shares rose 7p to 325.5p after the group said it expected the deal to enhance earnings in the first year.

The deal is part of Chubb's stated ambition to expand in the Australasia region where the market for electronic alarms and closed-circuit television is growing faster than in Europe.

The acquisition is of major strategic value for Chubb in

relation to the development of the business in Australia, Asia/Pacific and world-wide, Sir Ernest said.

Chubb, which has almost £90m in the bank, will fund the deal from a combination of cash resources and bank facilities. The acquisition is the latest in a series of deals involving Chubb in the Australasian region, which accounts for more than a quarter of group sales, and its second in a year with James Hardie.

In December Chubb paid £5.3m for Hardie's security monitoring and manpower division. Six months later it bought MSS Security, an Australian electronic security company, for £10m cash.

Company Results				
	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Brunel Holdings (F)	1.68m (173m)	-16.3m (8.24m)	-17.8p (13.7p)	0.5p (0.5p)
Cable & Wireless (I)	3.40m (2.95m)	734m (815m)	16.1p (10.8p)	3.4p (3.0p)
Century Inns (F)	24.0m (21.6m)	7.13m (4.88m)	15.7p (13.6p)	6.75p (-)
CML Microelectronics (I)	8.39m (8.75m)	0.12m (0.73m)	1.35p (3.38p)	(-)
Courtaulds (I)	1.07m (1.15m)	64.0m (68.0m)	10.6p (11.3p)	4.45p (4.3p)
Craneswick (I)	79.1m (86.5m)	1.84m (1.46m)	8.8p (7.2p)	3p (2.6p)
FDI (I)	499m (429m)	51.4m (39.4m)	5.11p (5.2p)	3.1p (3.2p)
Granada Group (F)	3.82m (2.38m)	400m (351m)	42.3p (30.1p)	8.78p (7.9p)
Greenway Holdings (I)	6.08m (5.56m)	-0.08m (0.56m)	-0.28p (1.98p)	0.5p (0.5p)
CE Health (I)	61.5m (62.1m)	4.62m (10.3m)	3.1p (4p)	1.5p (3p)
Kalamazoo Computer (I)	35.2m (32.4m)	2.3m (2.0m)	3.75p (3.64p)	1.2p (1.1p)
McCarty & Stone (F)	61.0m (57.3m)	11.0m (9.2m)	7p (7.2p)	2.3p (3p)
Northern Foods (I)	941m (967m)	59.0m (53.1m)	7.48p (6.55p)	3.6p (3.5p)
Reflex (I)	0.08m (-)	-0.21m (-)	-3.09p (-)	(-)
Sandstrom (I)	18.4m (13.2m)	3.18m (2.03m)	11.3p (8.48p)	2.25p (1.75p)
TNI (I)	26.0m (14.3m)	9.7m (4.24m)	2.52p (2p)	(-)
Thames Water (I)	24.9m (21.3m)	1.0m (1.5m)	3.6p (3.7p)	0.5p (0.75p)
UK Land (I)	(-)	0.67m (0.59m)	7p (6p)	(-)
Wiggins Industrial (I)	161m (153m)	11.1m (12.4m)	12.54p (16.97p)	7p (7p)

(F) - Final (I) - Interim (I) - Figures 4 months to August 31

# On the edge of a conversation. One of the loneliest places on earth.

The Economist



# Hill Samuel prepares to go in to bat at Lord's

The merchant bank Hill

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

During the course of the subsequent century, much of the growth in the size of government was funded by increasing

Other countries are likely to

**Trends**

Year	Income taxes	Consumption taxes
1990	10	5
1991	11	6
1992	12	7
1993	13	8
1994	14	9
1995	14.5	9.5
1996	15	10
1997	15	10
1998	15	10
1999	15	10
2000	15	10

Sources: OECD

follow. The ever-closer integration of the world economy means taxes on capital income are increasingly hard to enforce. It might even become impossible the more footloose investment becomes. The downward pressures on personal income tax are less, but already exist for the mobile cor-

It is much harder to monitor sales of anything over the Internet, satellite television transmissions and any other "dematerialised" economic activity. It will be harder still when retail customers can pay in "real time" via computer. Technology could signal the end of money as a means of payment. When value added can pass

It is not *difficult* to imagine a world where all the tax revenues to build roads are raised directly by auctioning licenses to claim tolls to a private company. This is a direction for tax reform which could be shaped to appeal to a Conservative government as much as a green-tinted Liberal Democrat one. The shape of the tax system is a political issue as well as a technical one. And the political dimensions are far broader than the question of whether Tuesday will see another penny lopped off the basic rate.

**Simon Bevan**, head of fraud investigations at accountants Arthur Andersen, this week received one of the most interesting and challenging appointments of his life; tracking down Jewish assets and bank accounts looted during the Holocaust.

"It's the world's biggest ever asset-tracing exercise, and we've been given unprecedented access to the Swiss banking system," says Mr Bevan, a former Hong Kong policeman.

Around 80 people are expected at the annual Slater-Walker reunion at Scribes wine bar off Fleet Street on Thursday, 28 November.

It is unlikely, however, that the two prime movers behind the property group, which collapsed in the 1970s crash, will be attending - Jim Slater and Peter Walker.

"I've handled devaluation, decimalisation - I guess you could say I've done a lot of damage."

"I'll be retiring to deepest Surrey to write, consult and advise free from the obstructive-

**Magnus**  
Bill Coates  
two-time  
NASCAR  
champion. He  
will help  
science, en-  
vironment, and  
politics.

The new  
in the Big  
and they  
keep  
Drawing  
heating f

[illegible]

**DONOR'S NAME**  
DONOR'S ADDRESS  
CITY AND STATE ZIP CODE  
PHONE NO.  
FAX NO.

the company's new president, who will take over the day-to-day operations of the firm. The company has been successful in its efforts to expand its market share and increase its profitability.

The company's success can be attributed to several factors:

- Strong leadership from the management team
- A clear vision and mission statement
- A focus on customer service and satisfaction
- A commitment to innovation and research & development

The company's future prospects are bright, and it is well-positioned to continue its growth trajectory.

**PARTNER WITH US**

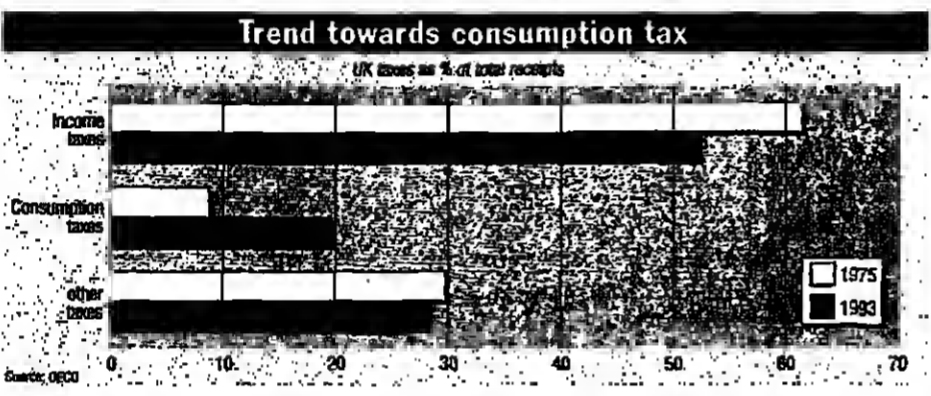
We are seeking qualified individuals to join our team as partners. If you are interested, please contact us at [phone number] or visit our website at [website URL].

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

[Name]  
[Address]  
[City, State, Zip]  
[Phone Number]  
[Email Address]

[illegible]

1. The first step is to identify the problem.  
 2. The second step is to analyze the problem.  
 3. The third step is to develop a solution.  
 4. The fourth step is to implement the solution.  
 5. The fifth step is to evaluate the solution.



Interest Rates									
UK		Germany		US		Japan			
Bank	6.00%	Discount	2.50%	Prime	8.75%	Discount	0.50%		
Lombard		Discount	4.50%	Discount	5.00%	Belgium			
Reintervention	3.20%	Canada		Fed Funds	5.25%	Central			
Italy		Prime	4.75%	Spain		Discount	3.00%		
Denmark	7.5%	Discount	5.00%	10-Day Repo	6.75%	Switzerland			
Netherlands		Denmark		Sweden		Discount	7%		
Advances	2.50%	Discount	3.25%	Repo (Ave)	4.80%	Lombard			
							10.0%		
							12.5%		

Bond Yields									
Country	Yr	yield %	10yr	yield %	Country	Yr	yield %	10yr	yield %
UK	7 1/2	7.22	7 1/4	7.54	Netherlands	8 1/4	4.82	6 1/2	5.77
US	6 1/4	5.98	7 1/4	7.18	Spain	10 1/4	6.46	10 3/4	7.24
Japan	5 1/2	5.71	6 1/4	6.28	Italy	8 1/4	8.76	9 1/2	7.96
FR	6 1/2	6.25	7 1/4	7.23	Belgium	8 1/4	5.76	7 1/2	6.85
Germany	6 2/25	6.48	6 25/32	5.83	Sweden	8 3/4	6.24	6 1/2	7.08
France	5 1/4	6.43	7 2/25	5.83	ECU (Ave)	6	5.08	7 1/4	6.22

Yields calculated on bond basis

1 year benchmarks

Money Market Rates									
Interbank	Overnight	7 Day	1 Month	3	6 Months	1 Year			
A	A	A	A	A	A	A			
B	B	B	B	B	B	B			
C	C	C	C	C	C	C			
D	D	D	D	D	D	D			
E	E	E	E	E	E	E			
F	F	F	F	F	F	F			
G	G	G	G	G	G	G			
H	H	H	H	H	H	H			
I	I	I	I	I	I	I			
J	J	J	J	J	J	J			
K	K	K	K	K	K	K			
L	L	L	L	L	L	L			
M	M	M	M	M	M	M			
N	N	N	N	N	N	N			
O	O	O	O	O	O	O			
P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q			
R	R	R	R	R	R	R			
S	S	S	S	S	S	S			
T	T	T	T	T	T	T			
U	U	U	U	U	U	U			
V	V	V	V	V	V	V			
W	W	W	W	W	W	W			
X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z			

[illegible]

Starling Cheque	-	-	-	6	6	6	6
Local Authority Depts	0%	5%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%
Discount Markets Dept	5%	-	-	-	-	-	-
Treasury Bills (3y)	-	-	5%	6%	-	-	-
Dollar Cheq	-	-	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
CCU Linked Dep	-	-	43 43	4%	4%	4%	4%

## Tourist Rates

A Buys	E Buys	E Buys	
Austria (Schilling)	20,940	Switzerland (Dollar)	3,270
Australia (Dollar)	17,220	Norway (Krone)	12,780
Belgium (Francs)	50,620	Portugal (Escudos)	97,800
Canada (Dollar)	2,685	Spain (Pesetas)	205,400
Ceylon (Rupees)	0,765	Sweden (Kronor)	2,050
Dominican (Pesos)	64,450	Switzerland (Francs)	12,880
Holland (Guilder)	2,395	Turkey (Liras)	598,400
Poland (Zlotys)	3,740	United States (Dollar)	10,000
Thailand (Bahts)	2,200	Yugoslavia (Dinars)	1,000

Mar	928	Jan	1480	Nov	9330	Mar	9300	Feb	21
Mar	945	Jan	1490	Mar	9450	Mar	7600	Apr	71
Mar	5811	Vol	2850	Vol	19	Vol	129	Vol	673
White Sugar		Freight		Wheat		Com		Com	
UPFE	\$/tonne	UPFE	\$/bbl	UPFE	\$/tonne	CBOT	H-L0	Com	\$/bushel
Nov	30390	Nov	9020	Nov	9435				
Mar	30410	Dec	125	Jan	9535	Dec	26800-26500		26975
Aug	30830	Dec	134	Mar	9625	Mar	26875-26675		26875
Vol	769	Index	1475	Vol	371	May	27425-27225		27425

### Other Softs

Nov	Dec	Mar	92700	Dec	Soy Oil	FL200g	6700
Nov	Dec	Copra (M)	94910	Nov	Coconut Oil (L)	\$/tonne	76500
Dec	Dec	Cotton (M)	UScent/ib	Dec	Shower Oil (L)	\$/tonne	83000
Dec	Dec	Wool	\$/lb	Dec	Rapeseed Oil (M)	\$/tonne	78000
Dec	Dec	Rubber	\$/tonne	Dec	Groundnut Oil	\$/tonne	87000

Source: *Euromoney*; many others; *Platts*; *Euromoney*; <sup>1</sup> *Malaysia*; <sup>2</sup> *HL* Europe Shores; <sup>3</sup> *FT* Information; <sup>4</sup> *Euromoney*

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

1520 من المجلد

# The £12bn mountain investors forgot

Nic Cincotti

Investors in UK companies have lost track of a huge £12bn in unclaimed flotation benefits they may be entitled to. The unclaimed benefits include share certificates and dividend payments, in addition to very recent rights issues which individuals might have passed on.

In many instances, company registrars are unable to trace in-

dividual shareholders when rights issues are sold at a premium and held until they are claimed, according to a report published yesterday by Mintel, the research organisation.

The unclaimed benefits form part of a £77bn total of forgotten funds, which include £4bn in dormant and obsolete accounts, £1.6bn National Savings on extension rates and £2bn of life assurance policies put on

deposit when they mature. A further large area of lost benefits concerns up to £10bn in company pension payments, which individuals miss out on because they are not prepared to join and contribute a smaller amount themselves.

Robert Browne-Clayton, chief executive at IFA Promotion, which promotes independent financial advice and commissioned the research, said that while much of the money would be hard to access, some deposits could be used almost immediately.

"Taking extra care of our existing money and savings can certainly free up cash to help us in the future, savings that could be used to boost future income," he said.

The Mintel research was carried out by Paul Hersey, a senior financial analyst. He said yesterday that he had spoken to more than 150 people in the course of preparing his report, including both large and small publicly quoted companies.

"In some cases, I could not

arrive at the exact figures and tended to underestimate," he said. "In other cases, I came pretty close."

Mr Hersey said, however, he had not been able to work out the extent of capital gains tax liabilities that might be incurred by individuals who had not taken up their entitlements.

The total capitalisation of UK quoted companies runs into many hundreds of billions of pounds. Experts believe the amount unclaimed by shareholders can average up to 2 or 3 per cent of a company's market capitalisation in many instances.

Forgotten funds include money people have lost track of, such as bank and building society deposits. Many forgotten funds may entitle a policyholder to flotation benefits when a building society converts to bank status next year.

Unclaimed cash includes company benefits, premium bonds and National Lottery prizes. Some £54bn is in forgotten funds, while £22bn is in

The money nobody wants	
Forgotten Funds	£m
Deposits in dormant or obsolete accounts	41,000
National Savings on extension rates	1,612
Policyholders lost track of	333
Old prizes and coins	5
Unclaimed flotation benefits (shares)	10,000
Share certificates	1,326
Dividend payments	452
Life Assurance	108
Friendly Societies	40
Total	54,876
Unclaimed Cash	
£m	
Unclaimed flotation benefits (dividends)	12,000
Unused company benefits	10,000
Income tax	221
Premium bonds	14
National Lottery	24
Stockpiled unclaimed prizes	1
Total	22,260

unclaimed cash. Mintel's research found that Londoners are the worst money managers in the UK, having lost track of up to £2,000 each, of which

almost £600 was unclaimed cash. This compares with an average of £1,700 nationwide and £1,400 for residents in the West Midlands.

## Gates and Allen take stake in Chiroscience

Magnus Grimond

Bill Gates and Paul Allen, the two founders of US software giant Microsoft, will emerge with a 6 per cent stake in Chiroscience, the British biotechnology group, following a \$120m (£72m) takeover deal announced yesterday.

Chiroscience is buying Darwin Molecular Corporation, a US gene-based drug discovery company started in 1991 with backing from Messrs Gates and Allen and several venture capital groups.

The all-share deal will see the two men convert their 14 per cent stakes in Darwin for holdings of slightly more than 3 per cent each in Chiroscience. The news initially sent shares in the British group 24p higher and they settled 11p up at 358.5p.

Darwin is involved in investigating the human genetic

make-up to determine whether people's genes predispose them to diseases such as cancer and asthma. Chiroscience hopes that the combination of Darwin's gene discovery capability with its own expertise in "chiral" chemistry – a way of purifying compounds – will enhance its ability to discover new drugs. The group has already identified key genes involved in two genetic disorders, Werner's Syndrome, which accelerates the ageing process, and early-stage Alzheimer's disease. It also claims to be on the way to identifying genes involved in porphyria and osteoporosis, or brittle bone disease.

Mr Gates welcomed the deal yesterday. "There is a strong synergy between these two companies which should accelerate the translation of Darwin's excellent science into therapeutic products. This merger is the right move for both companies."



Strong synergies: Microsoft founder Bill Gates said the merger was the right move for both companies

Those sentiments were echoed by John Padfield, Chiroscience chief executive. "This deal creates a unique biotechnology company. Nothing similar exists in the biotech world which goes from gene to drug."

The idea would be for the combined group to identify a gene target, then some molecules to hit the target, followed by the development of a suitable drug. "The aim is to build a broad portfolio of targets and molecules. It improves your hit rates," he said.

Comment, page 23

## Abbey moves into private banking

Jill Treanor  
Banking Correspondent

Abbey National is making its first entrance into the lucrative world of private banking through a link with Hambros, the merchant bank, and Dai Sing Financial Holdings, Hong Kong's fifth-biggest bank.

The venture, designed to target wealthy individuals in the Hong Kong region, will be called Dai Private Bank. Abbey National and Hambros are each investing £6.6m, giving them each 24.5 per cent interests.

Abbey National has an offshore operation in Jersey but has not set up a separate private banking unit before.

Hambros is aiming to boost its operations with the appointment of a new head of private banking, Warwick Newbury, hired from Coutts, NatWest's private bank, and due to join in January.

According to a survey published yesterday by Price Waterhouse, bankers are setting their sights on the personal fortunes accumulated by en-

trepreneurs in the emerging economies in the Asian region. This is also happening in Britain, where investment bankers are reaping the rewards of a hectic year of mergers and acquisitions and a rising stock market.

"If you look at M&A activity it gives a sense that the good times are back... but not to the excesses of the 1980s. People are going to save more," said Ian Woodhouse, associate vice-president at Price Waterhouse's Private Banking Consultancy.

He points to the decision by Coutts to open a branch in London's Docklands, where investment banks such as Morgan Stanley, and soon BZW, are based.

"Our clients are as likely to be a young, international investment banker, as a member of the British aristocracy," a spokeswoman for Coutts said.

Price Waterhouse's survey highlighted significant growth in private banking but also an increase in competition in a market which has traditionally been associated with polite and genteel business practices.

### IN BRIEF

#### IoD criticises new curbs on trade unions

Government proposals to curb industrial action were branded as "undemocratic" by the Institute of Directors yesterday. Tim Melville-Ross, the Institute's director-general, said the plans would result in "a complete lawyers' charter" as the courts attempted to sort out whether industrial disputes would be covered by the legislation. The Green Paper, unveiled by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade this week, says strikes would be illegal if they caused "significant disruption of everyday life or activities". Launching a manifesto for British Business, Mr Melville-Ross insisted that his organisation was "not anxious" to see any new laws restricting trade union rights after the wave of reform from the Conservatives over the past 17 years.

#### London Electricity bid rumours scotched

Shares in London Electricity fell yesterday after Entergy, the US utility group, dashed speculation that it was about to launch a takeover bid. An Entergy spokesman said the New Orleans power supplier had held "exploratory discussions" with London, believed to be over the past two weeks, but the talks had ended. It is not thought the two sides went as far as discussing a price for London. The shares fell 6.5p to 658.5p. Entergy has already discounted mounting a bid for Yorkshire Electricity.

#### Confidence in Germany grows

Business confidence in Germany jumped last month. The Ifo business climate index, one of the best leading indicators for the German economy, rose to 97.4 from 95.7 in September, with expectations returning to their highest since February 1995. Analysts said the figure suggested the economy was still expanding at an above-trend rate, continuing its second-quarter rebound.

Germany's M3 money supply grew at an annualised and seasonally adjusted 8.4 per cent in October, the Bundesbank said. Its growth remains well above the 4.7 per cent target range but was probably boosted last month by the build up of deposits ahead of the Deutsche Telekom privatisation. The Bundesbank is expected to leave interest rates on hold.

#### CME links up with London and Paris

The Chicago Mercantile Exchange yesterday announced the signing of two groundbreaking international agreements establishing links with Europe's two leading futures exchanges, the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange (LIFFE) and the Marché à Terme International de France (MATIF). They will bring short-term and long-term European interest rate contracts to the Merc's trading floor.

#### TBI's interim profits take off

TBI, the commercial property and regional airports operator, made pre-tax profits of £9.7m for the six months to 30 September, compared with £4.2m last time. TBI is actively looking to expand its airports division and may make its next move in Europe or North America, chief executive Keith Brooks said. The group operates Cardiff International Airport and recently acquired the Belfast International Airport for £100.4m.

#### Watchdog cuts BT's charges to rivals

Ofel, the telecommunications watchdog, has cut the charges BT rivals pay to connect calls to its network by 12 per cent. The reductions affect companies such as Mercury and the cable operators who need to route part of a phone call through BT circuits. The cuts reflect the huge cost cuts made by BT, which has continued to slash its workforce in response to growing competition.

#### Car production motors ahead

Car production surged by 2.8 per cent in the three months to the end of October, reflecting the continuing renaissance of the UK's motor industry. It means production is at its highest level since the early 1970s, just before the huge shake-out among British car makers. Compared with a year ago car production was more than 18 per cent higher. Export production rose by 53.7 per cent year-on-year, while production for the home market fell by 12.6 per cent.

## CLASSIFIED

### Legal Notices

#### R.L.S. SPECIALITY BEERS

A WINNERS LIMITED  
The Brewery Act 1986

In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Brewery Act 1986, I, Richard Williams, of Campbell & Co., 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

### Unusual Gifts

A NEWSPAPER for that special date, 1996-1997, most times available. Ideal birthday gift, remember when. Tel: 0191-268 8323. Or call FREE 0800 520 000.

### What's On

PHANTOM pop & sport. C.D. on. Tel: 0171 858 8119.

### To advertise in this section please call the Classified Team on

0171 293 2713.

### Mobile Phones

PHONES FROM

£9.99

\*Subject to Talk 60 or above

FREE ACCESSORIES  
LEATHER CASE  
CIGAR LIGHTER ADAPTER  
SPARE BATTERY

Delivered to your door

FREEPHONE 0500 976973

Docklands Telecom Centre

1A Burdett Road, Bow, London E3

(Aldgate East, Central Line)

Orange

mobile phones at

unbeatable prices

£25 per month + 100p per min + 100p per text

Free delivery

Free 100p per min + 100p per text

All Orange mobiles available

Talk 60-15 mins FREE calls a month + line rental of £15.40

Talk 60-60 mins FREE calls a month + line rental of £25.40

Talk 200-200 mins FREE calls a month + line rental of £50.40

Get connected now for free

0800 279 2444

INTERNATIONAL CELLULAR SERVICES

VISA

all calls subject to connection to Orange Network

Connection subject to credit

Dancall dc1

£4.99

FREE delivery

FREE 100p per min + 100p per text

All Orange mobiles available

Talk 60-15 mins FREE calls a month + line rental of £15.40

Talk 60-60 mins FREE calls a month + line rental of £25.40

Talk 200-200 mins FREE calls a month + line rental of £50.40

Get connected now for free

0800 279 2444

INTERNATIONAL CELLULAR SERVICES

VISA

all calls subject to connection to Orange Network

Connection subject to credit

# Why pay more?

APR  
VARIABLE  
until January 1998

## NO ANNUAL FEE

Why pay interest rates of 20% or more on your credit cards when you could pay as little as 9.9% APR with a Capital One VISA card? And there's NO Annual Fee!

Just transfer your balance from your high interest card to our low 9.9% APR Capital One VISA card and you could SAVE £200 or more in your first year\*. And after January 1998 you'll only pay a very low 15.9% APR variable.

The Capital One VISA card is accepted wherever you see the VISA sign. And Capital One is one of the oldest established credit card businesses in the world with over 8 million customers worldwide.

So why not start saving money today? Just give us a call now.

Call 0800 66 9000 FREE to apply for your 9.9% APR Capital One VISA card or request a FREE information pack.

# CALL 0800 66 9000 FREE

AND QUOTE 2201 TO APPLY OR REQUEST A FREE INFORMATION PACK

All applicants must be aged 18 or over and resident in the UK. Credit is available subject to credit and affordability. If your application is accepted we will set a credit limit. If you want to transfer a balance from another card, we will transfer an amount according to the limit. APRs are variable and linked to UK Consumer Bank Base Rate. A minimum monthly payment of only 2% of the outstanding balance (minimum of £5) is required. Further details available on request. \*This saving is based on a balance of £2,000 that remains constant over 12 months on a Barclaycard standard VISA card 22.9% APR, and assumes that there is no change in Base Rates during that period. Different cards have different terms, conditions and benefits. Competitive information is correct as at 04/11/96.

Yes, please send me my free information pack, I'm interested in paying less for my credit card.

TITLE Mr/Mrs/Ms/Ms/Other INITIALS SURNAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

PHONE No. (PLEASE INCLUDE 070 CODE)

Post to: Capital One Bank, Card Services, P.O. Box 317, Nottingham, NG7 2WD.

3601



\_\_\_\_\_

# Rowell worries over southern hemisphere

## London survive ordeal Irish captain out of Test Shaw's incredible fight

playing, so I won't be at Twickenham," she said. "But I am chuffed for Simon, he has worked so very hard to get what he has."

H A N D   P U L L E D   S I N C E   1 7 7 7 .   I N   P I N T   B O T T L E S   S I N C E   1 9 9 6

أخبرنا من الرجل

## Lomu primed to fight for place

Rugby Union  
CHRIS HEWITT

New Zealand's rugby players used up so much emotional energy last summer in sealing the one great sporting peak left for them to conquer - a series victory in South Africa - that their arrival in London yesterday should have been a gentle, low-key affair. Some hope.

While Sean Fitzpatrick's last band of mean-eyed adventurers were in wiscracking mood, the captain himself was characteristically single-minded as he summed up his party's ambitions. "It's been a long season and a very exciting one for all of us," said the record-breaking Auckland hooker. "But we haven't come all this way to let ourselves down in the last two games of the year, that's for sure."

By way of underlining that these All Blacks, thinly disguised as the New Zealand Barbarians, intend to avenge their 1993 Twickenham defeat when they resume hostilities with England on Saturday week, the management made it clear that the human mountain range known as Jonah Lomu would have to fight for his place.

According to John Hart, the All Black coach who is also in charge of the Barbarians party, Lomu would not rate a place in the full New Zealand Test side at present. Glen Osborne, who is so home to re-charging his batteries, are the main men and, just to complicate matters, many rugby watchers back home believe that Lomu has now been surpassed by the Fijian Joelie Vidiri, who qualifies as a Kiwi in 1998.

"If anyone had told me back in June that we would win a series on Springbok soil without Jonah, I'd have laughed in their faces," admitted Hart. "But Jonah's knee and shoulder problems opened the door for Glen and he turned in some fantastic performances. I think Jonah is a better person for his setbacks, though, and I expect him to come back stronger than ever."

Lomu himself is desperate to play at Twickenham. "Of course I want to play," he said. "I've set myself the goal of winning back my Test place and when you want something so badly, you'll do almost anything to get it."

If all that was less than reassuring from the English point of view, Hart was making no excuses. "How we see the game at Twickenham and how England see it may be two different things. From our perspective, it's not a Test match but a game played in the Barbarian tradition; quite honestly, we've had a hard season and are in no position to play a one-off Test this stage. But in saying that, it could not be complete face-England with a team completely lacking in experience." With fledgling superstars such as Vidiri and the two outstanding Auckland talents, the outside-half Carlos Spencer and wing-forward Andrew Owens, also on the trip, England will know they have been a Test even if the tourists beg differ.

## Clark denies Forest team is for sale

Football

The Nottingham Forest manager, Frank Clark, has dismissed reports that he has been told by the club's board of directors to put his entire first team squad up for sale.

It was claimed that Clark had been ordered to off-load his players because Forest's substantial debts were putting off prospective buyers interested in taking over at the City Ground.

Clark insisted: "It's rubbish. To say that I've been making calls to managers telling them all my players are available for sale is just not true. What is true is that I have been in touch with one club to try and get a deal over one player going but that never got off the ground."

Striker Brian Roy is believed to be the only player Clark would be willing to off-load but there has been little sign of any movement for the Dutchman.

The Forest board will meet in the near future to meet representatives of the three bidders still in contention to take over at the City Ground.

They are understood to be a consortium led by Lawrence Lewis, an Indonesian businessman and a group of local businessmen. After meeting the three parties, the directors will then call an extraordinary general meeting at which the club's 209 shareholders will decide who is to become the new owners at Forest.

Clark was hoping that everything is decided sooner rather than later as he is desperate for funds to try to strengthen bottom-placed Forest, who have not won since the opening day of the season.

But at least he has the consolation of having his current squad back to almost full fitness. Stuart Pearce and Kevin Campbell have suffered no reaction after coming through Monday's defeat at Sheffield Wednesday after injury layoffs. Chris Bart-Williams could also be in contention to return after a three-match absence with a thigh problem against Blackburn next Monday.

The Portsmouth manager, Terry Venables, is hoping that the appointment of Terry Venables

as the new coach of the Australian national team can bring his club an influx of fresh playing talent.

Venables, who has also become chairman at Fratton Park in succession to his old friend and former chairman at Queen's Park Rangers Jim Gregory, is confident that he can handle the demanding dual role of helping the "Socceroos" to the 1998 World Cup finals and heading the First Division club.

Fenwick said: "Terry has got to make a living after all and Portsmouth aren't in a position to pay him a salary. He is very keen for the people of Portsmouth to know that his involvement with the club isn't some fly-by-night thing. He wants to work with the club for a long time to come."

Being chairman of Portsmouth and manager of the Australian side allows him to have the best of both worlds. In many ways this might even help Pompey. You never know, he might end up with a few Aussie players on our books if Terry thinks they are right for us."

Venables still has an option to buy the entire Fratton Park club for just one pound in a deal agreed with Martin Gregory when he was appointed as director of football earlier this year.

Disgruntled Brighton fans are stepping up the pressure on the Football Association to help resolve the Third Division club's problems.

They are planning a march in London before the match at Fulham on 30 November and yesterday appealed for "all true football followers" to join them. A petition will be handed into the FA during the march, which will end in Hyde Park.

In the last home game against Mansfield around 2,000 supporters responded to a call to boycott the fixture and Brighton supporters groups have pledged to maintain the campaign until the chairman, Bill Archer, and the chief executive, David Bellotti, resign.

Dick Knight, leader of the consortium attempting to take over the Third Division's bottom club, has warned that they will not survive beyond the end of the season if Archer remains in charge.

## Muller holds few hopes for Metz in Newcastle

Sylviane Pierron leaned across the bar of Le Barca, the brasserie built into the main stand of the Stade Saint-Symphorien. "If we win in Newcastle," she said, "maybe we will change our name. 'The Magpie' perhaps."

The Magpies having flown from the home nest of FC Metz with a 1-1 draw from the first leg, the feeling left behind in the regional capital of Lorraine was that Kevin Keegan and his Newcastle United team had all but snatched a quarter-final place.

"We only have a 10 per cent chance," Joel Muller, the Metz

coach, said. "I don't think it is possible for us to win in Newcastle, but we hope, we dream."

Mme Pierron was not dreaming when she told how Metz overcame even greater odds, and the mighty Barcelona after losing 4-2 in the Saint-Symphorien. Their 4-1 victory in the Nou Camp stands in the record books.

"The French television stations did not even bother going to Spain," Mme Pierron recalled of that Cup-Winners' Cup tie in 1984. "Everyone said Metz had no chance but this brasserie was named to remind the world that we did it."



Charles Barkley, of the Houston Rockets, rises above the challenge of Minnesota Timberwolves' Tom Gugliotta in the National Basketball Association game on Tuesday. Houston won 122-93. Photograph: Reuters

## Portuguese officials imprisoned

A former Portuguese referee and the chairman of a First Division club were sentenced to prison yesterday for bribery.

Referee Jose Guimaro, who told journalists he would appeal, was given 15 months after being convicted by a court in the northern city of Matosinhos of accepting money to influence the outcome of matches.

The current chairman of the Liga club, Manuel Lopes Rodrigues, was sentenced to one year in prison, while two other men were given sentences of

eight months. All four denied the charges which stemmed from a 1993 investigation into match-rigging.

Guimaro, 41, was arrested in June 1994 after months of investigations in which police searched the homes of several referees and club directors.

The case came to be known as the "case of the 500,000" after police found photocopies of a cheque for half a million escudos (€2,000) in Guimaro's house. The prosecution charged that the money was part of a two million

escudo (€8,000) payment by Lopes Rodrigues to Guimaro to favour Liga, who at the time were a Second Division club.

The court case came at a delicate time for Portuguese football, which has been shaken by a series of allegations of bribery and attempts to influence referees. UEFA, European football's governing body, is to probe allegations that the Portuguese champions, Porto, sought to bribe a referee 12 days before a European Cup-Winners' Cup match with Aberdeen.

Both Porto and the Romanian referee who took charge of the game in 1984 have denied the accusations but UEFA decided to investigate given the seriousness of the allegations made by a Portuguese businessman, who says he acted as go-between.

Porto are also at the centre of another controversy over a holiday in Brazil for referee Carlos Calheiros in the summer of 1995. The club has officially admitted that it picked up the bill for the holiday but says it did so without realising who it was for.

## Injury to keep De Boer out until new year

The Ajax defender Frank de Boer will be out of the game until the New Year after damaging his left ankle in training on Tuesday.

De Boer, who missed last night's European Champions' League home tie with Auxerre, will miss the match against Grasshopper Zurich on 4 December as well as the Netherlands' World Cup qualifier in Belgium on 14 December.

Germany's most-capped international, Lothar Matthäus, and the national coach, Bert Vogts, have ended their long-running feud after a "peace summit" in Bonn yesterday.

Matthäus, 35, refused to hide his disappointment at being left out of his country's

triumphant Euro '96 squad, a rejection which upset Vogts.

"There have been irritations but they should not and will not come up again," the DFB president, Egidius Braun, said in a statement. "This frank discussion will close this chapter."

Matthäus earned the last of his 122 caps in December 1994, shortly before he ruptured an

Achilles tendon and had to take almost a year off.

It is unlikely the Bayern Munich captain will return to the national side, where Borussia Dortmund's Matthias Sammer has filled the libero role. But the meeting improves the chances for a testimonial match, which seemed in doubt while Matthäus was at odds with Vogts.

In the afternoon, he appeared to leave his troubles behind by appearing on a television programme with his wife and dancing, ironically, to the Elvis tune "Jailhouse Rock".

The Spanish First Division club Valencia is seeking the return of Brazilian striker Romario to play for the side and Johan Cruyff as coach to replace Luis Aragones.

"Cruyff is being sought," spokesman Manuel Mas said. "Whether Romario returns would depend on the new coach, but it's being discussed."

Valencia accepted the resignation of Aragones within hours of the side defeating the Turkish side Besiktas 3-1 in the UEFA Cup on Tuesday.

The second leg will be match number four on Alan Shearer's comeback schedule, assuming he returns to action at Stamford Bridge on Saturday.

And Muller had no need to consult the record books to recall that the 41-year-old first goal in international football was scored on his England debut four years ago, at the expense of France.

Perhaps it is just as well that the Metz coach played for Dunkirk in his younger days. His side will need a French variation of the Dunkirk spirit in the "Iron Army's" fortress on Tuesday week.

## Brundle crashes on trial run

Laying

artin Brundle, the Formula one veteran, crashed out during a preview run for the Network Q/RAC Rally yesterday. Brundle, preparing for his debut in this weekend, was on a reconnaissance drive of one of the Welsh stages when he slid off icy track and down a bank.

The Ford Escort car - not the one Brundle will use in the three-day event which starts on Saturday - was damaged, forcing him and his co-driver Roger Freeman to continue in a different car.

"It's no big deal," said the 38-year-old after the accident on the "recco" for the 9.1-mile stage at Garthgheiniog.

Football results

Yesterday

STANDARD MATCHES

WIDEBOROUGH LEAGUE First Division: 1. Watford 2. Luton 3. Stevenage 4. Hemel Hempstead 5. Hemel Hempstead 6. Hemel Hempstead 7. Hemel Hempstead 8. Hemel Hempstead 9. Hemel Hempstead 10. Hemel Hempstead 11. Hemel Hempstead 12. Hemel Hempstead 13. Hemel Hempstead 14. Hemel Hempstead 15. Hemel Hempstead 16. Hemel Hempstead 17. Hemel Hempstead 18. Hemel Hempstead 19. Hemel Hempstead 20. Hemel Hempstead 21. Hemel Hempstead 22. Hemel Hempstead 23. Hemel Hempstead 24. Hemel Hempstead 25. Hemel Hempstead 26. Hemel Hempstead 27. Hemel Hempstead 28. Hemel Hempstead 29. Hemel Hempstead 30. Hemel Hempstead 31. Hemel Hempstead 32. Hemel Hempstead 33. Hemel Hempstead 34. Hemel Hempstead 35. Hemel Hempstead 36. Hemel Hempstead 37. Hemel Hempstead 38. Hemel Hempstead 39. Hemel Hempstead 40. Hemel Hempstead 41. Hemel Hempstead 42. Hemel Hempstead 43. Hemel Hempstead 44. Hemel Hempstead 45. Hemel Hempstead 46. Hemel Hempstead 47. Hemel Hempstead 48. Hemel Hempstead 49. Hemel Hempstead 50. Hemel Hempstead 51. Hemel Hempstead 52. Hemel Hempstead 53. Hemel Hempstead 54. Hemel Hempstead 55. Hemel Hempstead 56. Hemel Hempstead 57. Hemel Hempstead 58. Hemel Hempstead 59. Hemel Hempstead 60. Hemel Hempstead 61. Hemel Hempstead 62. Hemel Hempstead 63. Hemel Hempstead 64. Hemel Hempstead 65. Hemel Hempstead 66. Hemel Hempstead 67. Hemel Hempstead 68. Hemel Hempstead 69. Hemel Hempstead 70. Hemel Hempstead 71. Hemel Hempstead 72. Hemel Hempstead 73. Hemel Hempstead 74. Hemel Hempstead 75. Hemel Hempstead 76. Hemel Hempstead 77. Hemel Hempstead 78. Hemel Hempstead 79. Hemel Hempstead 80. Hemel Hempstead 81. Hemel Hempstead 82. Hemel Hempstead 83. Hemel Hempstead 84. Hemel Hempstead 85. Hemel Hempstead 86. Hemel Hempstead 87. Hemel Hempstead 88. Hemel Hempstead 89. Hemel Hempstead 90. Hemel Hempstead 91. Hemel Hempstead 92. Hemel Hempstead 93. Hemel Hempstead 94. Hemel Hempstead 95. Hemel Hempstead 96. Hemel Hempstead 97. Hemel Hempstead 98. Hemel Hempstead 99. Hemel Hempstead 100. Hemel Hempstead 101. Hemel Hempstead 102. Hemel Hempstead 103. Hemel Hempstead 104. Hemel Hempstead 105. Hemel Hempstead 106. Hemel Hempstead 107. Hemel Hempstead 108. Hemel Hempstead 109. Hemel Hempstead 110. Hemel Hempstead 111. Hemel Hempstead 112. Hemel Hempstead 113. Hemel Hempstead 114. Hemel Hempstead 115. Hemel Hempstead 116. Hemel Hempstead 117. Hemel Hempstead 118. Hemel Hempstead 119. Hemel Hempstead 120. Hemel Hempstead 121. Hemel Hempstead 122. Hemel Hempstead 123. Hemel Hempstead 124. Hemel Hempstead 125. Hemel Hempstead 126. Hemel Hempstead 127. Hemel Hempstead 128. Hemel Hempstead 129. Hemel Hempstead 130. Hemel Hempstead 131. Hemel Hempstead 132. Hemel Hempstead 133. Hemel Hempstead 134. Hemel Hempstead 135. Hemel Hempstead 136. Hemel Hempstead 137. Hemel Hempstead 138. Hemel Hempstead 139. Hemel Hempstead 140. Hemel Hempstead 141. Hemel Hempstead 142. Hemel Hempstead 143. Hemel Hempstead 144. Hemel Hempstead 145. Hemel Hempstead 146. Hemel Hempstead 147. Hemel Hempstead 148. Hemel Hempstead 149. Hemel Hempstead 150. Hemel Hempstead 151. Hemel Hempstead 152. Hemel Hempstead 153. Hemel Hempstead 154. Hemel Hempstead 155. Hemel Hempstead 156. Hemel Hempstead 157. Hemel Hempstead 158. Hemel Hempstead 159. Hemel Hempstead 160. Hemel Hempstead 161. Hemel Hempstead 162. Hemel Hempstead 163. Hemel Hempstead 164. Hemel Hempstead 165. Hemel Hempstead 166. Hemel Hempstead 167. Hemel Hempstead 168. Hemel Hempstead 169. Hemel Hempstead 170. Hemel Hempstead 171. Hemel Hempstead 172. Hemel Hempstead 173. Hemel Hempstead 174. Hemel Hempstead 175. Hemel Hempstead 176. Hemel Hempstead 177. Hemel Hempstead 178. Hemel Hempstead 179. Hemel Hempstead 180. Hemel Hempstead 181. Hemel Hempstead 182. Hemel Hempstead 183. Hemel Hempstead 184. Hemel Hempstead 185. Hemel Hempstead 186. Hemel Hempstead 187. Hemel Hempstead 188. Hemel Hempstead 189. Hemel Hempstead 190. Hemel Hempstead 191. Hemel Hempstead 192. Hemel Hempstead 193. Hemel Hempstead 194. Hemel Hempstead 195. Hemel Hempstead 196. Hemel Hempstead 197. Hemel Hempstead 198. Hemel Hempstead 199. Hemel Hempstead 200. Hemel Hempstead 201. Hemel Hempstead 202. Hemel Hempstead 203. Hemel Hempstead 204. Hemel Hempstead 205. Hemel Hempstead 206. Hemel Hempstead 207. Hemel Hempstead 208. Hemel Hempstead 209. Hemel Hempstead 210. Hemel Hempstead 211. Hemel Hempstead 212. Hemel Hempstead 213. Hemel Hempstead 214. Hemel Hempstead 215. Hemel Hempstead 216. Hemel Hempstead 217. Hemel Hempstead 218. Hemel Hempstead 219. Hemel Hempstead 220. Hemel Hempstead 221. Hemel Hempstead 222. Hemel Hempstead 223. Hemel Hempstead 224. Hemel Hempstead 225. Hemel Hempstead 226. Hemel Hempstead 227. Hemel Hempstead 228. Hemel Hempstead 229. Hemel Hempstead 230. Hemel Hempstead 231. Hemel Hempstead 232. Hemel Hempstead 233. Hemel Hempstead 234. Hemel Hempstead 235. Hemel Hempstead 236. Hemel Hempstead 237. Hemel Hempstead 238. Hemel Hempstead 239. Hemel Hempstead 240. Hemel Hempstead 241. Hemel Hempstead 242. Hemel Hempstead 243. Hemel Hempstead 244. Hemel Hempstead 245. Hemel Hempstead 246. Hemel Hempstead 247. Hemel Hempstead 248. Hemel Hempstead 249. Hemel Hempstead 250. Hemel Hempstead 251. Hemel Hempstead 252. Hemel Hempstead 253. Hemel Hempstead 254. Hemel Hempstead 255. Hemel Hempstead 256. Hemel Hempstead 257. Hemel Hempstead 258. Hemel Hempstead 259. Hemel Hempstead 260. Hemel Hempstead 261. Hemel Hempstead 262. Hemel Hempstead 263. Hemel Hempstead 264. Hemel Hempstead 265. Hemel Hempstead 266. Hemel Hempstead 267. Hemel Hempstead 268. Hemel Hempstead 269. Hemel Hempstead 270. Hemel Hempstead 271. Hemel Hempstead 272. Hemel Hempstead 273. Hemel Hempstead 274. Hemel Hempstead 275. Hemel Hempstead 276. Hemel Hempstead 277. Hemel Hempstead 278. Hemel Hempstead 279. Hemel Hempstead 280. Hemel Hempstead 281. Hemel Hempstead 282. Hemel Hempstead 283. Hemel Hempstead 284. Hemel Hempstead 285. Hemel Hempstead 286. Hemel Hempstead 287. Hemel Hempstead 288. Hemel Hempstead 289. Hemel Hempstead 290. Hemel Hempstead 291. Hemel Hempstead 292. Hemel Hempstead 293. Hemel Hempstead 294. Hemel Hempstead 295. Hemel Hempstead 296. Hemel Hempstead 297. Hemel Hempstead 298. Hemel Hempstead 299. Hemel Hempstead 300. Hemel Hempstead 301. Hemel Hempstead 302. Hemel Hempstead 303. Hemel Hempstead 304. Hemel Hempstead 305. Hemel Hempstead 306. Hemel Hempstead 307. Hemel Hempstead 308. Hemel Hempstead 309. Hemel Hempstead 310. Hemel Hempstead 311. Hemel Hempstead 312. Hemel Hempstead 313. Hemel Hempstead 314. Hemel Hempstead 315. Hemel Hempstead 316. Hemel Hempstead 317. Hemel Hempstead 318. Hemel Hempstead 319. Hemel Hempstead 320. Hemel Hempstead 321. Hemel Hempstead 322. Hemel Hempstead 323. Hemel Hempstead 324. Hemel Hempstead 325. Hemel Hempstead 326. Hemel Hempstead 327. Hemel Hempstead 328. Hemel Hempstead 329. Hemel Hempstead 330. Hemel Hempstead 331. Hemel Hempstead 332. Hemel Hempstead 333. Hemel Hempstead 334. Hemel Hempstead 335. Hemel Hempstead 336. Hemel Hempstead 337. Hemel Hempstead 338. Hemel Hempstead 339. Hemel Hempstead 340. Hemel Hempstead 341. Hemel Hempstead 342. Hemel Hempstead 343. Hemel Hempstead 344. Hemel Hempstead 345. Hemel Hempstead 346. Hemel Hempstead 347. Hemel Hempstead 348. Hemel Hempstead 349. Hemel Hempstead 350. Hemel Hempstead 351. Hemel Hempstead 352. Hemel Hempstead 353. Hemel Hempstead 354. Hemel Hempstead 355. Hemel Hempstead 356. Hemel Hempstead 357. Hemel Hempstead 358. Hemel Hempstead 359. Hemel Hempstead 360. Hemel Hempstead 361. Hemel Hempstead 362. Hemel Hempstead 363. Hemel Hempstead 364. Hemel Hempstead 365. Hemel Hempstead 366. Hemel Hempstead 367. Hemel Hempstead 368. Hemel Hempstead 369. Hemel Hempstead 370. Hemel Hempstead 371. Hemel Hempstead 372. Hemel Hempstead 373. Hemel Hempstead 374. Hemel Hempstead 375. Hemel Hempstead 376. Hemel Hempstead 377. Hemel Hempstead 378. Hemel Hempstead 379. Hemel Hempstead 380. Hemel Hempstead 381. Hemel Hempstead 382. Hemel Hempstead 383. Hemel Hempstead 384. Hemel Hempstead 385. Hemel Hempstead 386. Hemel Hempstead 387. Hemel Hempstead 388. Hemel Hempstead 389. Hemel Hempstead 390. Hemel Hempstead 391. Hemel Hempstead 392. Hemel Hempstead 393. Hemel Hempstead 394. Hemel Hempstead 395. Hemel Hempstead 396. Hemel Hempstead 397. Hemel Hempstead 398. Hemel Hempstead 399. Hemel Hempstead 400. Hemel Hempstead 401. Hemel Hempstead 402. Hemel Hempstead 403. Hemel Hempstead 404. Hemel Hempstead 405. Hemel Hempstead 406. Hemel Hempstead 407. Hemel Hempstead 408. Hemel Hempstead 409. Hemel Hempstead 410. Hemel Hempstead 411. Hemel Hempstead 412. Hemel Hempstead 413. Hemel Hempstead 414. Hemel Hempstead 415. Hemel Hempstead 416. Hemel Hempstead 417. Hemel Hempstead 418. Hemel Hempstead 419. Hemel Hempstead 420. Hemel Hempstead 421. Hemel Hempstead 422. Hemel Hempstead 423. Hemel Hempstead 424. Hemel Hempstead 425. Hemel Hempstead 426. Hemel Hempstead 427. Hemel Hempstead 428. Hemel Hempstead 429. Hemel Hempstead 430. Hemel Hempstead 431. Hemel Hempstead 432. Hemel Hempstead 433. Hemel Hempstead 434. Hemel Hempstead 435. Hemel Hempstead 436. Hemel Hempstead 437. Hemel Hempstead 438. Hemel Hempstead 439. Hemel Hempstead 440. Hemel Hempstead 441. Hemel Hempstead 442. Hemel Hempstead 443. Hemel Hempstead 444. Hemel Hempstead 445. Hemel Hempstead 446. Hemel Hempstead 447. Hemel Hempstead 448. Hemel Hempstead 449. Hemel Hempstead 450. Hemel Hempstead 451. Hemel Hempstead 452. Hemel Hempstead 453. Hemel Hempstead 454. Hemel Hempstead 455. Hemel Hempstead 456. Hemel Hempstead 457. Hemel Hempstead 458. Hemel Hempstead 459. Hemel Hempstead 460. Hemel Hempstead 461. Hemel Hempstead 462. Hemel Hempstead 463. Hemel Hempstead 464. Hemel Hempstead 465. Hemel Hempstead 466. Hemel Hempstead 467. Hemel Hempstead 468. Hemel Hempstead 469. Hemel Hempstead 470. Hemel Hempstead 471. Hemel Hempstead 472. Hemel Hempstead 473. Hemel Hempstead 474. Hemel Hempstead 475. Hemel Hempstead 476. Hemel Hempstead 477. Hemel Hempstead 478. Hemel Hempstead 479. Hemel Hempstead 480. Hemel Hempstead 481. Hemel Hempstead 482. Hemel Hempstead 483. Hemel Hempstead 484. Hemel Hempstead 485. Hemel Hempstead 486. Hemel Hempstead 487. Hemel Hempstead 488. Hemel Hempstead 489. Hemel Hempstead 490. Hemel Hempstead 491. Hemel Hempstead 492. Hemel Hempstead 493. Hemel Hempstead 494. Hemel Hempstead 495. Hemel Hempstead 496. Hemel Hempstead 497. Hemel Hempstead 498. Hemel Hempstead 499. Hemel Hempstead 500. Hemel Hempstead 501. Hemel Hempstead 502. Hemel Hempstead 503. Hemel Hempstead 504. Hemel Hempstead 505. Hemel Hempstead 506. Hemel Hempstead 507. Hemel Hempstead 508. Hemel Hempstead 509. Hemel Hempstead 510. Hemel Hempstead 511. Hemel Hempstead 512. Hemel Hempstead 513. Hemel Hempstead 514. Hemel Hempstead 515. Hemel Hempstead 516. Hemel Hempstead 517. Hemel Hempstead 518. Hemel Hempstead 519. Hemel Hempstead 520. Hemel Hempstead 521. Hemel Hempstead 522. Hemel Hempstead 523. Hemel Hempstead 524. Hemel Hempstead 525. Hemel Hempstead 526. Hemel Hempstead 527. Hemel Hempstead 528. Hemel Hempstead 529. Hemel Hempstead 530. Hemel Hempstead 531. Hemel Hempstead 532. Hemel Hempstead 533. Hemel Hempstead 534. Hemel Hempstead 535. Hemel Hempstead 536. Hemel Hempstead 537. Hemel Hempstead 538. Hemel Hempstead 539. Hemel Hempstead 540. Hemel Hempstead 541. Hemel Hempstead 542. Hemel Hempstead 543. Hemel Hempstead 544. Hemel Hempstead 545. Hemel Hempstead 546. Hemel Hempstead 547. Hemel Hempstead 548. Hemel Hempstead 549. Hemel Hempstead 550. Hemel Hempstead 551. Hemel Hempstead 552. Hemel Hempstead 553. Hemel Hempstead 554. Hemel Hempstead 555. Hemel Hempstead 556. Hemel Hempstead 557. Hemel Hempstead 558. Hemel Hempstead 559. Hemel Hempstead 560. Hemel Hempstead 561. Hemel Hempstead 562. Hemel Hempstead 563. Hemel Hempstead 564. Hemel Hempstead 565. Hemel Hempstead 566. Hemel Hempstead 567. Hemel Hempstead 568. Hemel Hempstead 569. Hemel Hempstead 570. Hemel Hempstead 571. Hemel Hempstead 572. Hemel Hempstead 573. Hemel Hempstead 574. Hemel Hempstead 575. Hemel Hempstead 576. Hemel Hempstead 577. Hemel Hempstead 578. Hemel Hempstead 579. Hemel Hempstead 580. Hemel Hempstead 581. Hemel Hempstead 582. Hemel Hempstead 583. Hemel Hempstead 584. Hemel Hempstead 585. Hemel Hempstead 586. Hemel Hempstead 587. Hemel Hempstead 588. Hemel Hempstead 589. Hemel Hempstead 590. Hemel Hempstead 591. Hemel Hempstead 592. Hemel Hempstead 593. Hemel Hempstead 594. Hemel Hempstead 595. Hemel Hempstead 596. Hemel Hempstead 597. Hemel Hempstead 598. Hemel Hempstead 599. Hemel Hempstead 600. Hemel Hempstead 601. Hemel Hempstead 602. Hemel Hempstead 603. Hemel Hempstead 604. Hemel Hempstead 605. Hemel Hempstead 606. Hemel Hempstead 607. Hemel Hempstead 608. Hemel Hempstead 609. Hemel Hempstead 610. Hemel Hempstead 611. Hemel Hempstead 612. Hemel Hempstead 613. Hemel Hempstead 614. Hemel Hempstead 615. Hemel Hempstead 616. Hemel Hempstead 617. Hemel Hempstead 618. Hemel Hempstead 619. Hemel Hempstead 620. Hemel Hempstead 621. Hemel Hempstead 622. Hemel Hempstead 623. Hemel Hempstead 624. Hemel Hempstead 625. Hemel Hempstead 626. Hemel Hempstead 627. Hemel Hempstead 628. Hemel Hempstead 629. Hemel Hempstead 630. Hemel Hempstead 631. Hemel Hempstead 632. Hemel Hempstead 633. Hemel Hempstead 634. Hemel Hempstead 635. Hemel Hempstead 636. Hemel Hempstead 637. Hemel Hempstead 638. Hemel Hempstead 639. Hemel Hempstead 640. Hemel Hempstead 641. Hemel Hempstead 642. Hemel Hempstead 643. Hemel Hempstead 644. Hemel Hempstead 645. Hemel Hempstead 646. Hemel Hempstead 647. Hemel Hempstead 648. Hemel Hempstead 649. Hemel Hempstead 650. Hemel Hempstead 651. Hemel Hempstead 652. Hemel Hempstead 653. Hemel Hempstead 654. Hemel Hempstead 655. Hemel Hempstead 656. Hemel Hempstead 657. Hemel Hempstead 658. Hemel Hempstead 659. Hemel Hempstead 660. Hemel Hempstead 661. Hemel Hempstead 662. Hemel Hempstead 663. Hemel Hempstead 664. Hemel Hempstead 665. Hemel Hempstead 666. Hemel Hempstead 667. Hemel Hempstead 668. Hemel Hempstead 669. Hemel Hempstead 670. Hemel Hempstead 671. Hemel Hempstead 672. Hemel Hempstead 673. Hemel Hempstead 674. Hemel Hempstead 675. Hemel Hempstead 676. Hemel Hempstead 677. Hemel Hempstead 678. Hemel Hempstead 679. Hemel Hempstead 680. Hemel Hempstead 681. Hemel Hempstead 682. Hemel Hempstead 683. Hemel Hempstead 684. Hemel Hempstead 685. Hemel Hempstead 686. Hemel Hempstead 687. Hemel Hempstead 688. Hemel Hempstead 689. Hemel Hempstead 690. Hemel Hempstead 691. Hemel Hempstead 692. Hemel Hempstead 693. Hemel Hempstead 694. Hemel Hempstead 695. Hemel Hempstead 696. Hemel Hempstead 697. Hemel Hempstead 698. Hemel Hempstead 699. Hemel Hempstead 700. Hemel Hempstead 701. Hemel Hempstead 702. Hemel Hempstead 703. Hemel Hempstead 704. Hemel Hempstead 705. Hemel Hempstead 706. Hemel Hempstead 707. Hemel Hempstead 708. Hemel Hempstead 709. Hemel Hempstead 710. Hemel Hempstead 711. Hemel Hempstead 712. Hemel Hempstead 713. Hemel Hempstead 714. Hemel Hempstead 715. Hemel Hempstead 716. Hemel Hempstead 717. Hemel Hempstead 718. Hemel Hempstead 719. Hemel Hempstead 720. Hemel Hempstead 721. Hemel Hempstead 722. Hemel Hempstead 723. Hemel Hempstead 724. Hemel Hempstead 725. Hemel Hempstead 726. Hemel Hempstead 727. Hemel Hempstead 728. Hemel Hempstead 729. Hemel Hempstead 730. Hemel Hempstead 731. Hemel Hempstead 732. Hemel Hempstead 733. Hemel Hempstead 734. Hemel Hempstead 735. Hemel Hempstead 736. Hemel Hempstead 737. Hemel Hempstead 738. Hemel Hempstead 739. Hemel Hempstead 740. Hemel Hempstead 741. Hemel Hempstead 742. Hemel Hempstead 743. Hemel Hempstead 744. Hemel Hempstead 745. Hemel Hempstead 746. Hemel Hempstead 747. Hemel Hempstead 748. Hemel Hempstead 749. Hemel Hempstead 750. Hemel Hempstead 751. Hemel Hempstead 752. Hemel Hempstead 753. Hemel Hempstead 754. Hemel Hempstead 755. Hemel Hempstead 756. Hemel Hempstead 757. Hemel Hempstead 758. Hemel Hempstead 759. Hemel Hempstead 760

**Strife in a cold climate**  
Ken Jones on the problems faced by football's foreign legion, page 28

**sport**

**Rowell looks south**  
England's coach worried by progress of Springboks and All Blacks, page 30

# Scots reject 'joke' venue

## Football

Scotland yesterday rejected Estonia's idea of playing their World Cup rematch in Cyprus in February and dismissed their alternative suggestion of the former Soviet republic of Azerbaijan as a joke.

Jim Farry, the Scottish Football Association chief executive, believes a fair solution would be to play at a venue the equivalent distance to Tallinn about a two-hour flight and not make the supporters fly five-and-a-half hours to Cyprus or even further to Azerbaijan.

"Somewhere around the equivalent would be a fair and equitable outcome," Farry said.

"We need a temperate climate at that time of year to ensure that the match progresses, so southern Europe would appear to be a more favoured spot perhaps southern France, southern Italy, southern Spain or southern Portugal."

Asked about the Estonian offer of Azerbaijan as an alternative, Farry said "I thought it might have been the first of April."

Lennart Johansson, the Uefa president, supported the Scots. "Cyprus is too far away," he said. "But Azerbaijan is even further away and that's ridiculous. There must be places closer, places like Copenhagen or somewhere like that."

Gerry Francis was hoping to complete the £2.5m signing of Steffen Iversen today. The Tottenham manager watched the 20-year-old Norwegian striker in action for Rosenborg against IFK Gothenburg in the Champions' League last night.

"Tottenham have offered £2.5m and no further bids will be accepted. Liverpool have

shown interest but did not make an offer," a Rosenborg spokesman said.

Blackburn Rovers hopes of poaching Roy Hodgson from Internazionale to become their new manager were finally ended yesterday when the English coach renewed his contract with the Milan club until 1999.

The Aston Villa manager, Brian Little, yesterday told his striker Savo Milosevic he must start producing the goods and warned: "Unless the response is right, I will act."

Little hinted he might still move for a new striker and Liverpool's Stan Collymore remains top of his list if Milosevic fails to deliver after rejecting a move to Perugia.

Milosevic refused to speak to reporters after undergoing an extra training session yesterday, but Little explained in no uncertain terms what is expected of him: "I have told Savo that he has to do the business, play well and score goals. He also has to have the right attitude otherwise questions will be asked."

"One of the reasons that we were prepared to let him go was because he was not in the right frame of mind. He is under pressure and will be under the spotlight more than ever from fans, his team-mates and the manager - and unless the response is right I will act."

"We will have to see how he responds to the challenge. He has to win everyone over. During the next few weeks I will be looking at Savo carefully to see what I've got. I've always maintained that Savo and Dwight Yorke can be as good a combination as any."

"I will look at things objectively and do what is right for the team and the club. I want Savo to succeed and have over-er said anything against him."



Pablo Bouza goes over for a try during Argentina's comprehensive 63-20 victory over London Counties at Twickenham yesterday. Report, page 30; photograph, David Rogers/Alls

## Davies aiming to be first \$1m woman

### Golf

Laura Davies goes into the first LPGA Tour Championship at the Desert Inn course in Las Vegas today knowing that victory will make her the first player in LPGA history to win more than \$1m in a season.

The British golfer has already broken the record for earnings in a single season by winning \$897,302 (£560,815) this year, comfortably beating

the \$539,736 won by Beth Daniel in 1990. The first prize in the LPGA Tour Championship, which features the top 30 players in the money list, is \$150,000.

However, Davies is not alone in her pursuit of a place in the record books. Karrie Webb can also top the seven-figure mark having won \$532,000. That figure more than triples the record for a rookie, £163,821, set by Helen Alford in 1992.

Although Annika Sorenstam

is out of the running for that million-dollar feat, she can at least throw a spanner in the works of her two rivals by topping the US money list.

The event is now a fitting end to what has already been a history-making year for the LPGA, which did not even have a Tour Championship when the season started.

However, the LPGA's commissioner, Jim Ritts, was determined to include the event. "The addition of a Tour

Championship to the LPGA Tour schedule has been a high priority in that we wanted to put a high-profile period to the end of the LPGA season," he said.

Four new tournaments have already been added for next year. With 17 existing events also raising their purses, total prize money next year will be almost £19m, a 19 per cent increase on this season.

The LPGA is clearly enjoying the best period in its 46-year-his-

tory and has not enjoyed such a high profile since Nancy Lopez was at her prime in the late 1970s.

When Lopez won nine tournaments in 1978, including a record five in a row, she earned a total of £118,320. However she has earned more than that this year without winning an event.

"I've seen the LPGA grow tremendously since I was a rookie," Lopez said as she prepared for the Tour Championship. "We're making a lot of

money compared to what we've been."

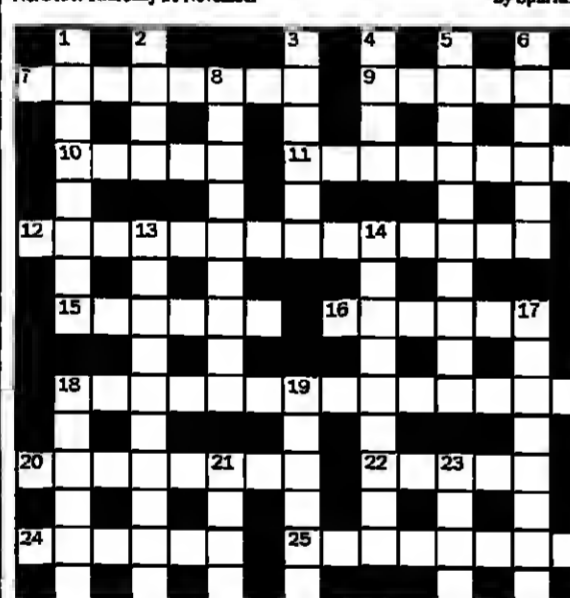
The United States start a favourites for the men's World Cup in South Africa today even though the four-times winners, Fred Couples and Davis Love III, both miss the event. The Americans are represented by Tom Lehman, the Open champion, and Steve Jones, the US Open champion, in a tournament which has been weakened by the absence of many of the game's leading players.

## THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3150, Thursday 21 November

By Spurling

Wednesday's Solution



### ACROSS

- 7 Breakfast food needing stir (8)
- 9 John and Edward stole goods opportunistically (16)
- 10 Acknowledge producing commercial with German (5)
- 11 Where some members of RUC may be depressed? (8)
- 12 Good earnings for sales force in Oxford Street? (4,10)
- 15 Alient boy's caught within one month (6)
- 16 Rider's reason for holding line? (6)
- 18 Document providing insurance for landlord? (8, 6)
- 20 Gentest law graduate runs into small difficulty initially (4-4)
- 22 Ration books featured in question and answer (5)



### DOWN

- 24 Splendid bit of bowling by senior policeman (6)
- 25 Supplement to fare from Hong Kong, maybe? (3, 5)
- 1 Lamps above and below a Rio slum, possibly (8)
- 2 Prudish person rigid in morals initially? (4)
- 3 Models posing, rarely seen (6)
- 4 French act displays a shortcoming (4)
- 5 Nickname for squire, but used informally? Nothing in that (10)
- 6 Recover silver which turns up during check (6)
- 8 "I'll have a sticky fruit with a stone in, please" (4, 5)
- 13 Type of delivery which restricts 50% of shots? (4-6)
- 14 Speaking when one's alone in the house? (9)
- 17 Chic angle possibly acceptable to eastern church (8)
- 18 Money order makes us almost square (6)
- 19 One without protective clothing in new industry getting cut twice (6)
- 21 Gown having decoration with a bit of ruffling on (4)
- 23 Jewel in ring father left (4)

## ITV keeps Champions' League

ITV has signed a new three-year deal with Uefa for exclusive British television rights to the Champions' League. The agreement completes a portfolio of football coverage which will cost ITV £45m per season and also includes the FA Cup and highlights of England's international games.

ITV will not reveal how much it has paid to Uefa to extend an agreement which began

from the start of the Champions' League five years ago. However, with England represented in the competition by two teams from next season it will not have come cheaply.

Jeff Farmer, ITV's head of football, said: "It's a tremendous contract for us because the Champions' League delivers tremendous peak-time audiences, as high as 12 million."

"This is undoubtedly the best

club competition in the world and we are thrilled it has been retained on ITV and kept available for a terrestrial audience."

Next season the English champions will be automatically seeded through to the group stages, which have been enlarged to accommodate 24 clubs rather than the present 16. The English runners-up and the Scottish champions will join them if they win their ties in the

qualifying round, which will be played over two legs.

From the start of next season ITV also has the FA Cup, which is currently broadcast by the BBC. Under the agreement ITV will have an exclusive live game on Sundays from the third round onwards and live coverage of the final.

ITV also has regional coverage of the Coca-Cola Cup and the Nationwide League.

## Court rules on fatal collision

**Sailing**  
STUART ALEXANDER

In a decision which will be studied closely by the United Kingdom yacht racing authorities, three suspended prison sentences have been handed down by a French court following the death in St Tropez last year of crew member drowned as a result of the collision involving two yachts while racing.

But the organisers of the event, La Nioulargue, were charged, although the public prosecutor had originally called for a fine of £2,500.

The hearing, to investigate the death of Jacques Bourry, the six-metre Taos Brett IV, ter it collided with the schooner Mariette, had been timed to coincide with the 1996 event.

The court eventually fined Thomas Perkins, the owner of the Mariette, £6,000 each in addition to the suspended jail sentence and imposed a similar penalty on Claude Graf, owner and skipper of Taos Brett.

Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5UL, and printed at Mirror Colour Press, 50 Albion Road, Watford, Herts. WD17 7UL.

Not available from Historic Newspapers, 01988 840370. Thursday 21 November 1996. Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office.

## Riches for nostalgia merchants

There were enough of football's big names to staff a Dream League, never mind a team, and the chequebook took a hammering. Jack Walker would have been in his element.

Even Blackburn Rovers' benefactor, though, might have been stretched to snap up Billy Wright, Bobby Moore, the cream of Red Star Belgrade and Arsenal's famous championship-winning side of 1932.

Sadly, the legends were there in spirit only. Yet there they undeniably were; in the form of caps, jerseys, medals, autographs and faded sepia prints, and there was no shortage of buyers desperate to land their star.

Some £305,000 changed hands at Christie's Auction House in Glasgow yesterday as the game's carefully-tended and much-loved memorabilia came under the hammer.

Wright, just as he did during his playing career, led the way - though the modest Shropshire

lad, who died in 1994 at the age of 70, would probably have been a little embarrassed at the thought of everyone scrambling over his collection. A large chunk of his 105 caps, along with medals, opponents' jerseys and a marvellous silver-plated trophy, presented on the occasion of his centenary England appearance, realised a sum of £116,759. The trophy itself was sold for £9,200.

The private collector who bought much of Wright's legacy refused to speak about his purchase, or reveal his identity. Like a seasoned manager, he denied any interest in Wright or that he was the buyer. Sheer speculation, presumably.

Two Wolves fans who grabbed their own little bit of the Wright stuff were more willing to talk about the deals

they had done. Steve Butcher and Dave Dungan had both travelled up from the Black Country, with Dungan spending more than £2,000 on one of Wright's England caps and a commemorative tea-pot given to the great man by another legend, Russia's Lev Yashin.

"We're season ticket holders at Molyneux," said Butcher, old gold scarf draped round his neck, "and we didn't want to see this going to a private collector. We'll probably give it to the club to put on display."

All sorts of ephemera attracted all sorts of nudges and winks from the Christie's crowd. Caps belonging to the Scotland keeper Alan Fought, medals to Arsenal's Welsh favourite of the Fifties, Ray Daniel, Gary Birtles' European Cup medal, from Nottingham Forest's 1979

triumph. The most evocative item was a programme from that fateful Red Star Belgrade-Manchester United game in 1958, signed by all 11 Yugoslav players, which fetched £1,450.

Victoria Gibson, of Christie's, said: "This is our eighth annual auction and it's been a record total. Our houses in London do cricket sales but being Glasgow, this is where the bulk of our football clientele is."

"The Billy Wright collection attracted massive interest and it looks like one of our best sales. Our best total before was £220,000 and it's a growing market."

This being Glasgow, parity had to be preserved. A batch of old Rangers programmes, including one from a historic friendly with Moscow Dynamo in 1945, fetched £450. However, Celtic came up with a late equaliser, managing the same sum for some of their 1960s European programmes.

IN BRITAIN, PEOPLE WITH FLAIR MAKE GREAT WINGERS.  
IN GERMANY, THEY MAKE GREAT TYRES

**Continental**

GERMAN ENGINEERING WHERE YOU NEED IT MOST ON A CAR.

OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF THE

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

the

me-

mer-

ed in

had

re-

be-

now

ch-

ar-

on

en

it

Ed-

هكذا من الأصل